

U.N. Serves warning to Libya

TUNIS (R) — The U.N. has told Libya the time for talking is over and that it must comply with the Security Council's Lockerbie bombing resolution or run the risk of tighter sanctions, a top U.N. envoy said on Friday. Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, who had talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Thursday, told a news conference in Tunis that the Security Council would review sanctions "within days or weeks" if Libya did not act. "There is no more time for declarations, discussions. Time is for practicalities and practicalities means the implementation of the resolution in all its aspects, without any exception," he said. "The patience of the Security Council is not limitless." The Security Council has demanded that Libya hand over for trial in the West two men accused of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. It also demanded Libyan cooperation with a French investigation into a 1989 aircraft bombing in Niger.

Jordan Times

Amman, Jordan
عن المؤسسة الصحفية
جوردان تيمز يومية

Sudan rebels accused of rights abuses

NAIROBI (AP) — The human rights group Africa Watch has condemned as a criminal act the threat by southern Sudan's rebels to shoot down relief planes in the besieged town of Juba. In a statement sent to news organizations in Nairobi, the London-based organization urged the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to immediately withdraw the threat. Africa Watch also demanded the return to refugee camps in Kenya of about 3,000 Sudanese boys who came back to southern Sudan from a refugee camp in northwestern Kenya early this month. The organization also accused the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees for failing in its duty "by allowing these people to be abducted." Panos Mountziis, a spokesman for the U.N.'s refugee programme, said the minors disappeared without the organization's knowledge. He said the rebels have frustrated efforts to visit the youngsters and ascertain their ages and willingness to stay in southern Sudan. The minors were among 19,000 youngsters who marched nearly 500 kilometres from refugee camps in Ethiopia back to their homeland last year. They fled to Kenya in July to escape advancing government troops.

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Turks round up 250 in Kurdish town

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish troops and police have detained 250 people in a house-to-house search of the town of Sirnak, where hundreds of Kurdish rebels fought a pitched battle with security forces for two days this week. Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin told the Anatolia news agency on Friday that the people were held in a search which had covered two thirds of the buildings in Sirnak, a town of about 400,000 people, 860 kilometres southeast of the capital Ankara. Three soldiers, one policeman and four civilians including a child and a woman were killed in the clashes in Sirnak, one of the strongholds of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for an independent state since 1984. Nineteen civilians, 13 soldiers and six policemen were wounded but there was no official word on rebel casualties.

Pakistani executed in Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — A Pakistani sentenced to death for drug trafficking was beheaded in Saudi Arabia on Friday. Riyadh Radio quoted the Saudi Interior Ministry as saying the man had been arrested while trying to smuggle an unspecified quantity of heroin into the country. The radio did not name the man who was executed in the Riyadh region after Friday prayers.

Ukrainian protesters want Demjanjuk freed

KIEV (R) — Demonstrators outside a conference of ethnic Ukrainians called "on Friday" for the release from an Israeli prison of John Demjanjuk, who was convicted of operating Nazi gas chambers in Poland and sentenced to death. About 20 protesters displayed banners and sang songs on the steps of the concert hall. They said an Israeli court had unjustly sentenced Demjanjuk in 1983. "We are not anti-Semites, we are merely standing up to defend Demjanjuk," a Ukrainian unjustly convicted," said Volodymyr, 36. Demjanjuk, who was deported from the United States in 1986 to stand trial in Israel, denies he was the so-called "Ivan the Terrible" at the Treblinka camp in Poland and has appealed against the conviction and death sentence.

Iran hits chemical arms treaty

GENEVA (R) — Iran, saying it hoped to "remain the last victim of chemical weapons," complained on Friday that a long-awaited treaty banning such weapons was too weak. Cyrus Nasseri, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, told a closed session of the 39-nation conference on disarmament that a draft treaty contained several loopholes, according to an Iranian statement. After 24 years of negotiations, diplomats said in early August that the treaty was complete and should be wrapped up by late this month. The treaty will ban not just the use of chemical weapons — which is already prohibited — but also manufacture and possession of them. Mr. Nasseri said Iran, attacked with chemical weapons by Iraq during their 1980-88 war, "more than any other nation in the world are supportive of such a convention." But he said the treaty's systems of verification had been weakened. A commitment to destroy chemical weapons within a 10-year period, for example, could now be extended.

Extremist leader killed in Assiut

CAIRO (AP) — In its continuous search for Muslim militants in the troubled southern city of Assiut, police exchanged fire with an alleged extremist leader and killed him, security sources said Friday. The incident occurred Thursday night when police broke into the house of Selim Sourmaty, an alleged Muslim extremist leader in the Assiut valley of Khassaba, 380 kilometres south of Cairo. They shot him dead after he opened fire on them, security sources said. They said guns and ammunition were found in Mr. Sourmaty's house.

King continues recovery after successful surgery

Regent sends congratulations to His Majesty

ROCHESTER (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday continued his recovery from surgery by Mayo Clinic surgeons to remove a blockage in the urinary tract and his left kidney. "He is doing very well early in the recovery process," clinic spokesman Chris Gade said, adding that all reports on King Hussein's condition after Thursday's surgery are being issued by his personal physician.

Dr. Samir Farraj, the personal physician, said the 56-year-old King was "conscious and aware" hours after the surgery on Thursday. "Everything is fine and he's recovering now and he's in very good shape," said Mr. Farraj. "There is nothing that suggests any seriousness."

Dr. Farraj said he did not know what caused the obstruction, but that tissue from the blockage was being analysed and that results should be available by the end of the week.

According to a statement issued through the Mayo Clinic,

doctors successfully removed a blockage that was causing a narrowing of the ureter, the muscular tube that carries urine from the kidney to the bladder. The kidney was removed during that procedure.

Dr. Paul Peters, chairman of the Urology Division at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre at Dallas, said kidney stones or a cancerous tumour are the two most common reasons to have a kidney removed.

"It may be that he had a stone that destroyed a kidney," Mr. Peters said. "He might have had a tumor of the ureter that obstructed the kidney."

King Hussein will undergo additional tests during his expected stay of seven to 10 days. Dr. Peters said King Hussein should lead a normal life with just one kidney.

"A person can really just live on half of one kidney, if it's a good half," said Dr. Peters, a recent past president of the American Urological Association.



There's no evidence that removing an abnormal kidney in an adult who has a second healthy kidney in any way shortens his life.

He said it's unusual for a person who loses a kidney because of stones or cancer to later lose the second kidney.

Jordan has a high incidence of kidney stones, and its dry weather

and high-calcium diet tend to make people more susceptible, Dr. Peters said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday sent a cable to King Hussein, congratulating him on the success of the surgery.

Following is the full text of the cable:

"Your Majesty King Hussein Peace be upon you."

"I, along with the Hashemite family and the dear Jordanian people, have received with great joy and happiness the good news about the successful surgery Your Majesty have undergone. It is my great pleasure to convey to you, in my name and on their behalf, our heartfelt congratulations on your safety."

"We pray to God to keep you the pillar and leader of this country."

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The Jordan Times congratulates the King and wishes His Majesty a speedy recovery.

Iraq vows to resist Western plans, offers foreign visits to south

Combined agency dispatches

THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT has vowed to resist any attempt to partition the country and said Western plans to stop Iraqi aircraft flying over the mainly Shiite south would be illegal and doomed to failure.

The Revolution Command Council (RCC) said Iraqis would "resist with all means" what it described as "a colonialist and Zionist plan of fragmentation."

But the statement fell short of saying directly that Iraqi planes would challenge a "no-fly" zone imposed by the United States, France and Britain.

Diplomats said they doubted the Iraqi air force would risk sending planes and helicopters on

suicide missions.

The president of the Iraqi National Assembly said that Western attempts to "restrict air traffic over Iraq would be illegal," the Iraqi News Agency said.

Saudi Mahdi Saleh said the United States, France and Britain have a "new Western scheme" to partition Iraq and the National Assembly "strongly denounces" it, according to the INA report.

Much of northern Iraq already is a protected zone for the Kurds, who also staged a failed rebellion in the wake of the war.

Iraq also offered to let politicians from member states of the U.N. Security Council inspect the marshes in the south of the country.

A senior official of the ruling

Baath Party "invited (political) parties from the U.N. Security Council member states to ... see the 'southern marshlands' for themselves to ascertain the falsehood of the lies being propagated by hostile colonialist media propaganda," the (INA) said.

The head of the party's foreign relations bureau, Abdul Ghani Ghafour, told INA the invitation was open to members of both parties in office and those in opposition.

Mr. Abdul Ghafour said the foreign relations bureau was willing to arrange the visits, which would also show the politicians the effects of the U.N. trade imposed on Iraq.

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Bush closes down on Clinton after nomination

HOUSTON (Agencies) — Opinion polls taken after Thursday's Republican nomination of George Bush for a second term in the White House showed the incumbent narrowing his Democratic opponent Bill Clinton's support to six points, down from over 30 points last month.

With the nomination conventions over, the Bush-Clinton battle began in earnest Friday. Each candidate targeted voters critical to his hopes of victory in November's election.

"Join me in our new crusade, to reap the rewards of our global victory — to win the peace," Mr. Bush said in a speech punctuated at its conclusion with a mammoth drop of balloons, confetti and indoor fireworks.

New polls showed Mr. Bush closing to within single digits of Mr. Clinton. The conservative

themes of the four-day convention appeared to boost his standing in the south, traditionally the base of Republican presidential victories.

With fresh evidence that Mr. Bush was getting a convention bounce in the polls to tighten an increasingly hostile White House race, Mr. Clinton tried to persuade voters that 12 years of Republican rule — and economics — were enough.

"In 1980, when we began our romance with trickle-down economics, we had the highest wages in the world, now we're 13th," the Democratic nominee said in Michigan. "We've tried it their way, it's time to change."

In President Bush's Thursday night renomination acceptance speech, he ceded responsibility

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Kenya lifts ban on U.S. food airlift to Somalis

MOMBASA (AP) — The United States began an airlift of food to starving Somalis on Friday after Kenya lifted a brief ban on U.S. flights over its airspace.

The first C-130 Hercules transport carrying 12 1/2 tonnes of beans, wheat flour, vegetable oil and grain took off from this Indian Ocean port at about 1338 GMT.

It was bound for the northeastern Kenya town of Wajir, where the food was to be unloaded and taken by truck to some of the 11 refugee camps along the Kenya-Somalia border.

The aid operation, involving about 100 U.S. troops including elite Green Berets, comes as officials are warning that half of Somalia's children could starve to death because of drought and civil war. Hundreds are said to be

dying daily.

Kenya had accused Washington of flying into the Indian Ocean port city of Mombasa without its permission and late Thursday withdrew permission for U.S. planes to fly over its territory.

It also claimed in a Foreign Ministry statement that the United States was conducting an "uncoordinated food airlift" by bypassing aid agencies to use troops to distribute food.

U.S. embassy spokesman T.J. Dowling denied each accusation. "We did have prior permission to land at Mombasa, the base for the U.S. airlift. This is not an uncoordinated operation," he said Friday.

Agreement to again permit the

Hekmatyar ready for peace talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Support from dissident chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar for a meeting of the Afghan leadership council could mark a breakthrough to end two weeks of bloody faction fighting in Kabul, a Mujahedeen mediator said Friday.

"If both sides think of the benefit of Afghanistan as the success of the jihad (holy war) this meeting will have good results," an aide quoted Hezb-e-Islami splinter faction leader Younis Khalis as saying.

Mr. Hekmatyar, fundamentalist leader of Hezb-e-Islami, would accept a meeting of the leadership council, an uneasy coalition of 10 Mujahedeen groups, his Message of Freedom radio said.

News of his acceptance came as a hail of Hezb rockets pounded the city of Friday afternoon, igniting a huge fire at the Kabul Hotel and hitting the presidential palace and the Defence Ministry, said Mujahedeen sources in radio contact with the city.

Government jets launched bombing raids against Mr. Hekmatyar's positions on the south-eastern outskirts and at nearby Bargami, the sources said.

More than 1,000 people have been killed or injured in the fighting, many when rockets hit their fragile mud homes. Tens of thousands are fleeing and lack adequate food and shelter.

Mr. Hekmatyar, poounding Kabul with rocket and artillery fire for two weeks, was responding to a letter from Mr. Khalis and respected moderate leader Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi.

The only outcome of this latest round in the 14-year Afghan civil war was "the destruction of Afghanistan," they warned.

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Rightists strike to protest Lebanon elections

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Right-wing Christians launched a three-day general strike Friday to protest upcoming parliamentary elections in a dispute that threatens a fragile peace after 15 years of civil war.

Government offices, banks shops and other businesses closed in east Beirut and other Christian-dominated cities.

The army was on maximum alert in case of violence. Helmeted troops in armoured personnel carriers manned scores of checkpoints on major roads linking Christian cities and frisked the few motorists who ventured out.

Police said no violence was reported, but tension was high despite assurances by Christian leaders that they will not resort to violence in their confrontation with the government.

President Elias Hrawi's government has called for three-stage parliamentary elections beginning Sunday.

The elections, the first in 20 years, fall in line with an Arab League-brokered peace plan that ended the civil war in 1990.

Right-wing Christian leaders have demanded a postponement until after Syria withdraws its peace-keeping troops from major cities.

The Christians say Syrian influence would lead to a legislature loyal to Syria.

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NEWLYWEDS LEAVE ON HONEYMOON

MOON: Her Royal Highness Sumaya Bint Al Hassan and her husband Nasser Judeh left for the United States Friday for honeymoon. They were married Thursday in a ceremony attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty the King, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki and members of the

Judeh family. Also attending were Queen Sofia of Spain, Crown Prince Felipe of Spain, and the crown prince of Holland. Photo shows the newlyweds with Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, their children, and the Judeh family. The Jordan Times congratulates Their Royal Highnesses, the Judeh family and the newlyweds and wishes them a happy and prosperous life (Petra photo)

Jordan heads for bilaterals saying Israeli intention under test

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel left for Washington Friday to attend the next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations scheduled to begin there Monday after an Arab meeting in Damascus decided that all Arab teams would take part.

The Palestinian delegation was forced to delay its departure after snags developed over travel permits issued by the Israeli occupation (see separate story). In any case, the Jordanians and Palestinians were not originally scheduled to take the same flight.

The Jordanian team was led by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, head of the delegation, and included Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, Dr. Jawad Aouai, Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Miri, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, Ambassador

Navef Al Kadi, Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, Dr. Munther Haddadin, Dr. Mousa Breizat, Dr. Marwan Muasher, Dr. Awn Khasawneh and Jordan's Ambassador to Washington Hussein Hamami.

In a departure statement, Dr. Majali said: "This round of talks is important because it will uncover indicators of the genuine Israeli intentions following the formation of a new Israeli government, headed by Yitzhak Rabin, which says it wants a peaceful solution and to continue negotiations with Arabs."

Dr. Majali voiced hope that the Israeli side would "act seriously in accepting and implementing the principles upon which the peace process was based."

Israel has not so far given any clear signal regarding its acceptance of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 or even

Resolution 425 on Lebanon, he noted.

The ambiguity surrounding U.S. President George Bush's recent decision to grant Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees had raised a possibility that the Aug. 24 talks could be delayed. But a meeting of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians held Wednesday and Thursday in Damascus decided to go ahead with the talks.

The Damascus meeting "was very positive and fruitful," said Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who led the Jordanian team to the talks. "We discussed the relevant developments in the peace process and the outcome of Rabin's visit to the U.S.," said Dr. Abu Jaber, who returned home late Thursday from the Syrian capital.

"Questions were raised over

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Palestinians delay departure after new Israeli travel rule

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators angrily delayed their departure for the sixth round of Middle East peace talks on Friday because Israel stopped five delegates from leaving.

Delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said all 28 members turned back from the King Hussein bridge in protest after Israeli border guards prevented the five from crossing into Jordan from the occupied West Bank.

She said the Palestinian delegation would refuse to leave for Washington until it received guarantees its members would be treated with dignity, even if this meant delaying the start of the talks set for Monday.

"We will not cross the bridge unless we are given ... guarantees that we will be able to leave without harassment, without intervention and with respect and dignity and we will be able to

come back with dignity," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters.

"Negotiations under these conditions cannot continue," she added angrily.

Asked if the negotiators would refuse to leave even if this delayed the talks set for Monday, Dr. Ashrawi responded:

"Even if it delays it, I don't think you can put a price on the dignity of a human being and we have had enough frankly."

Israeli authorities prevented the five from crossing because they were under age 35 and did not have a special permit allowing them to return immediately.

Without the permit, Palestinians under 35 cannot return to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip before nine months.

Dr. Ashrawi said Israel had never demanded the permits in the past.

Dr. Ashrawi said that four of the five had gone with the delega-

tion for the five previous rounds of Arab-Israeli talks with no complications.

The five were out peace negotiators but support staff — advisers or journalists — attached to the delegation.

Dr. Ashrawi said the Israeli action showed nothing had changed with the election of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who toppled hardliner Yitzhak Shamir in June.

"The fact that this is allowed to take place ... points out the basic discrepancy, the schizophrenia between political statements and the ongoing conditions on the ground which have not changed," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Palestinians were already angry over Washington's agreement to underwrite \$10 billion in loans to Israel without demanding a total freeze on Jewish settlement in the

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Law on political parties clears Parliament

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Politicians and parliamentarians were divided Friday in their reaction to the new political parties law endorsed by Parliament on Thursday.

While some welcomed it, others said that there was still need for political reform prior to the establishment of a multi-party system.

Talib Al Masri, a former prime minister and an Amman deputy, said: "I consider this to be a basic and fundamental element for enhancing the democratic and political process in the country."

"This will open new horizons," Mr. Masri stressed. "Not only as a progressive law for the establishment of local political parties, but also as a point of reference for other Arab countries."

Mr. Masri said he considered the law as an achievement for the

government he headed in 1991 since it was "my cabinet (that) drafted the law."

Faris Nabulsi, an Amman deputy who belongs to the Democratic Bloc in Parliament, said: "It is a good law, but one that does not meet all expectations."

Mr. Nabulsi explained that the bill placed constraints on political parties and argued that the law should not have included articles that place penalties on violators.

Leith Shubilat, an independent Islamist in the Lower House, criticised the bill and called for "genuine political reforms" before implementing the legislation.

"I don't think that the future multi-party experience will succeed," he said. "This law will consolidate the false democratic process that has been going on."

"We have not learned from the Ma'an episode in order for us to conduct genuine reforms," Mr. Shubilat said referring to the

April 1989 riots by Jordanians calling for public participation in decision-making.

Parliament approved the draft law at a joint session Thursday. The law will become effective once it is endorsed by His Majesty the King.

The joint session was warranted when the Upper House introduced some amendments that the Lower House did not accept. Those amendments revolved around two main issues: Party links with other Arab parties and party activities at school, on campus and at government institutions. A number of meetings between both Houses' leaders secured a compromise that was endorsed in Thursday's session.

Parliament had held eight such sessions in the past, with the last joint meeting taking place in 1964.

The Constitution stipulates that the draft law will be endorsed "only if it is approved by a two-third majority vote of those present in the joint session."

Of both Houses, 102 senators and deputies were present on Thursday and the law was passed by a show of hands.

The bill annuls the political parties law of 1955.

In its gist, the law affirms that all parties should be Jordanian with no foreign links. It bans political groups from receiving external financial aid.

The law prohibits teachers, who could be members of political parties, from propagating their ideologies among students in schools. It also prohibits the use of government and public institutions as grounds for spreading party ideology.

A new article added during Thursday's session stipulates that "whoever creates a military or semi-military party would be

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Iraq still rejects U.N. terms to export oil

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has reiterated its rejection of U.N. resolutions allowing partial resumption of oil sales because Baghdad believes the terms violate its sovereignty.

"The two unjust resolutions impinge on Iraq's sovereignty, and we demand that all forms of boycott be lifted against our oil," Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti told the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra in an interview published on Friday.

Mr. Hiti said Iraq's oil would find its way to international markets through "perseverance and patience."

"Time will prove that we, through our steadfastness and patience, will achieve that goal," he said.

Security Council Resolution 706 allows Iraq to sell a one-time \$1.6 billion worth of oil over six months for humanitarian purposes, such as the purchase of food and medicines. Resolution 712 imposes strict conditions on the sales, proceeds and distribution of food.

Mr. Hiti said Iraqi technicians

and engineers had completely repaired the oil export terminal at Mina Al Bakr, the only export outlet under its control, at the head of the Gulf.

It is Iraq's second repair of Bakr's terminal, devastated in the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war and the 1991 Gulf war.

Although Baghdad still rejects U.N. terms to resume oil sales, it is working to expand output and export capabilities beyond the pre-Gulf war rate of 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd).

Iraq said in May it was ready to produce three million bpd of crude and the reconstruction of Bakr terminal will put its export capacity at more than two million.

Iraq and the United Nations held their latest inconclusive round of talks in June on the resumption of partial exports with the U.N. demanding all exports pass through Turkey, a condition Iraq still rejects.

Iraq wants to use Mina Al Bakr.

The Security Council demands that oil sales be under U.N. supervision to enable it to pay for its own supplies and to help finance U.N. teams scrapping its lethal weapons.

Revenues from the sales are also expected to go into a compensation fund for war victims and reparations to Kuwait.

Gold for wheat

Iraq paid gold bullion for Australian wheat after the Iraqi government, fettered by United Nations trade sanctions, could not raise enough cash, the Australian wheat board said Friday.

Wheat Board Chairman Clinton Condon said Iraq had bought 900,000 tonnes of Australian wheat since the Gulf war ended in February 1991.

Most of the Iraqi payment was in gold with some paid from offshore cash reserves. Mr. Condon did not say how much the deal was worth.

However, a Reserve Bank of Australia report released Thursday

said it handled the transaction in which the Central Bank of Iraq handed over 10 tonnes of gold.

"This is an unusual situation," Mr. Condon said. "Iraq is a longstanding customer and one of our largest export markets."

U.N. sanctions permit Iraq to purchase foreign food and medicines for humanitarian purposes.

However, Iraq's ability to raise hard currency has been stymied by the sanctions which have stopped oil exports.

The sanctions also prevent Iraq from using domestic cash reserves to pay outstanding foreign debts. Iraq owes Australia \$434 million for wheat bought on credit before the outbreak of the Gulf war.

Mr. Condon said Iraq was in urgent need of food.

"Clearly, the most desirable arrangement would be for Iraq and the U.N. to reach agreement on the recommencement of the oil exports necessary to generate hard currency for the purchase of food," he said.

Djerejian says U.S. has no 'double standard'

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A top U.S. official Thursday dismissed accusations that the Bush administration applies a "double standard" in its tense showdown with Iraq and called allegations that the Iraqi crisis is being used to boost President George Bush's election campaign "nonsense."

Replying to questions in a satellite press conference on Iraq's record of compliance with and violations of U.N. resolutions, the official said that the U.S. "took the lead" in responding to crises, from the breakup of Yugoslavia to ethnic bloodshed in Bosnia to famine in Somalia.

"There is no double standard," said Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs. He added the U.S. has taken a "global approach" to crisis emerging after the cold war, initiating "coherent responses" through the U.N.

Several Western nations and officials have condemned the White House for not taking stronger action on international upheavals.

This month U.S. Senate investigators criticised the United Nations and the State Department for what they called a slow response to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina where about 35,000 people have died since the republic's majority Muslim and Croat voted for independence Feb. 29.

On the eve of a U.S. military relief flight to Somalia last Tuesday where 1.5 million people face imminent starvation, relief officials urged greater U.S. attention.

Mr. Djerejian's satellite conference with reporters from Cairo, Riyadh, Ankara and Islamabad comes a day after U.S.-led allies drew up a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq to protect Shiite Muslim rebels from Iraqi attacks. The planned restriction followed reports of a stepped-up campaign against the marshland-based rebels and was coupled with threats to shoot down Iraqi warplanes violating the ban.

"It is not the policy of the United States to partition Iraq," Mr. Djerejian said.

"What is being done is establishing security zones or arrangements to monitor the applications of United Nations Security Council resolutions to help protect the Iraqi population, from repressive measures by Saddam Hussein and his regime," he said.

The United States, "from the beginning," upheld the territorial integrity of Iraq, he said. "We think this is a very important principle to uphold."

The "no-fly zone" is the second air restriction following a similar one in the north to protect Kurds, in theory dividing Iraq into three regions with Baghdad in the same middle.

Mr. Djerejian somewhat sidestepped a question from Islamabad on why the U.S. has not focused less on military might and more on negotiations with a "key leader" in the Middle East allied with the U.S. but also trusted by Iraq — "someone like King Hussein."

"No matter what efforts have been made, Saddam Hussein has made a basic calculation that he is going to try to defy the international community," Mr. Djerejian said, describing the Iraqi leader's attitude towards U.N. resolutions and weapons inspectors as "cynical calculation."

The U.S. has twice threatened to renew military action against Iraq in tense standoffs with U.N. weapons inspectors.

Mr. Djerejian, fielding a question from Riyadh, denied U.S. bluster as an election tactic to boost Mr. Bush at the reelection polls in November.

"Nonsense. We have seen such reports and we find them appalling," he said.

"We have had a consistent policy towards Iraq from Desert Storm to U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq. We are applying the intent of the international community... actions are necessary because of Iraq's repression of its own people and defiance," he said.

"President Bush has made (it) clear that the United States looks forward to working with a government — a successor government to Saddam Hussein — that can live at peace with its own people and with its neighbors," he said.

CBS has not apologised for racist remarks — ADC

WASHINGTON (USA) — The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), a media watch group, continue to criticise the CBS television network for not issuing an apology for what they say are defamatory remarks made by news anchor Dan Rather, board member Henry Kissinger, and news consultant Foad Ajami during a June fundraiser for the Jerusalem Foundation.

ADC and FAIR have accused Mr. Rather, Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Ajami of making racist remarks against Arabs and of showing bias in attending a fundraiser for creating jobs for Jewish immigrants in East and West Jerusalem.

During the benefit, Dr. Kissinger stated "... you can't really believe anything an Arab says," according to a transcript of a tape recording of the programme provided by FAIR. Mr. Ajami, in recounting a trip he made to a bedouin camp, stated, "I insisted on only one thing — that I be spared the ceremony of eating with a bedouin," according to the transcript. In opening the benefit, Dan Rather, said of Jerusalem: "Many of us celebrate 25 years after the city was united under Israeli rule."

While the president of CBS News, Eric Ober, and Dr. Henry Kissinger have responded to ADC and FAIR, their letters fall short of apologies, Albert Mokhiber, president of ADC, and Sam Hussein, an associate at FAIR, said during a press conference Aug. 20 at the National Press Club.

"What continues to trouble us is the refusal of CBS and each of the individuals involved to recognise their offense and extend an apology. It is unimaginable in 1992 that any network would tolerate remarks such as 'You really can't believe anything an Arab says,' and 'rightfully so. Arabs must stop being the exception to the rule...'" Mr. Mokhiber said.

"Our demand for a public apology is the very least that should be expected and it should have come voluntarily and unsolicited," Mr. Mokhiber said. ADC sent letters to Mr. Ober, Mr. Kissinger, Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Ajami in early August demanding apologies. To date, only Mr. Ober and Dr. Kissinger have responded, Mr. Mokhiber said.

Mr. Ober's letter to ADC states: "While we regret that you were dissatisfied with the discussion that took place, comments made by individuals in their personal capacity are not the responsibility of CBS News."

In his reply, Dr. Kissinger, while stating his support for ADC and its objectives, rejects characterising his remarks as racist. Dr. Kissinger says his "remarks in their proper context... were directly related to the conduct of statecraft." He said his "observations had no broader application and were certainly not intended to give offense."

Responding to Dr. Kissinger's reply, Mr. Mokhiber said, "He could not say those things about any other ethnic group and get away with it... His explanation is about as cloudy as I've ever seen." Dr. Kissinger's remarks — in or out of context — are "offensive," Mr. Mokhiber said.

Mr. Hussein, an associate at FAIR, called "upon CBS to address the issue with the seriousness it deserves." He said CBS' "disassociation" from its employees' remarks "goes against CBS' own internal guidelines and goes against past precedent."

ADC has also not responded to ADC's request for a meeting, Mr. Mokhiber noted. The network's "failure to even recognise us... (and) to not even meet with us is another problem," he said.

"In order to impress upon CBS the seriousness of the matter, we have stepped up our efforts today with a national action alert urging our members and supporters to express their outrage by deluging CBS with letters and calls," Mr. Mokhiber said.

Pakistan gives visas to Afghan Sikhs and Hindus

TORKHAM, Afghanistan (R) — In a major policy shift, Pakistan's embassy in Kabul has begun giving visas to Afghan Sikhs and Hindu minorities trying to flee two weeks of fighting in the city, Pakistan border officials said.

The Pakistan embassy issued 1,600 visas on Thursday to members of the non-Muslim minorities escaping a city under relentless rocket bombardment by a dissident Mujahadeen faction, one official said.

The move marked a shift from a previous policy, decided at cabinet-level in Islamabad, not to allow in Afghanistan's Hindus and Sikhs on the grounds they could be Indian spies, Western diplomats said.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

Most of the 25,000 Sikhs and about 5,000 Hindus in Kabul's population of 1.5 million moved to Afghanistan in the mid-19th century. Sikhs work as money traders and Hindu merchants handle the cloth and spices trades.

Many of the Sikh and Hindu families arriving at the Pakistan border on Thursday told tales of persecution at the hands of the fundamentalist Mujahadeen who entered Kabul with the new government in April, and by the Uzbek militia of the formerly communist government.

"These people are in desperate straits," one Western diplomat commented. He said many had been turned back at the Pakistan border while Muslim Afghans were given entry.

Jagat Singh, 42, a Kabul businessman, said he fled with his family of 13 on Wednesday after obtaining Pakistani visas and arrived in Torkham late on Thursday.

Mr. Singh said he planned to transit through on his way to seek refuge with relatives in India.

Paul Singh, 26, said he was kidnapped by Uzbeki forces after the fall of the communist government of President Najibullah and held for three days. The militia freed him only after his family paid a ransom of one million Afghanis (\$1,200).

The wealth of the Hindus and Sikhs makes them a conspicuous target for the many groups of armed men roaming the city.

Western diplomats said kidnappings of Sikhs and Hindus were becoming commonplace in Kabul, with many would-be kidnappers staking out the Pakistan embassy for potential victims arriving to apply for visas.

Even poorer Sikhs and Hindus were at risk because kidnappers knew the close-knit community would band together to pay the ransoms for those without enough money.

"Some kidnappers even demand the ransom in U.S. dollars," one diplomat said. "A figure of \$5,000 is not uncommon."

Sikhs and Hindus were targets for fundamentalist Mujahadeen because they were not fundamentalist, were wealthy and were seen as Indian and therefore linked with New Delhi which is perceived as supporting Mr. Najibullah, the diplomat said.

OIC affirms stand on Palestinians, Jerusalem

JEDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) commemorated Aug. 21 Friday as a day of Islamic Solidarity with the Palestinian People and affirmed East Jerusalem as part of Palestinian territory.

The day marks an attempt in 1969 to burn the Al Aqsa Mosque in the Holy City, an act which prompted Muslim leaders to establish the Jeddah-based OIC as political umbrella for the world's estimated one billion Muslims. The arson was attributed by Israeli authorities to a mentally deranged person.

"This day reminds us of a painful and abominable crime perpetrated by the Zionist occupation forces as they attempted to burn the Aqsa mosque in Al Quds (Jerusalem) in 1969," said OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid in the statement.

"Israel has persisted in its policy aimed at the Judaisation of Al Quds, the alteration of its features, the obliteration of its Arab and Islamic character and the construction of additional settlements to change the demographic status of the Holy City," Mr. Gabid said.

He said that excavation and exploration works continued around and under the mosque with the aim of demolishing to erect a Jewish temple. "The repeated violations of the sanctity of the holy shrines and their desecration were also ongoing," he said.

The OIC, he said, emphasised the need for the ongoing Middle East negotiations to include East Jerusalem "as an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories according to U.N. Security Council and General Assembly resolutions."

Mr. Gabid also requested that the necessary steps be taken for the discontinuation of the construction of Israeli settlements and for the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. "These steps will guarantee the continuation of the peace process," he said.

He hailed the Palestinians' uprising for the fifth successive year and reiterated OIC support for the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan churches seeks U.N. help

NAIROBI (R) — Church leaders in Sudan have appealed for urgent United Nations intervention to help 250,000 civilians trapped in the southern city of Juba, scene of fighting between government and rebel forces. Bishop Nathaniel Garang, acting chairman of the New Sudan Council of Churches, said in a message released in Nairobi on Friday: "The (civilians) are literally being held hostage by the government troops. The airport is closed so food and other essential items like medicines cannot reach them. They are living in churches and the football stadium because their homes have been destroyed, and the area around Juba has been deliberately mined so they cannot escape."

The Bishop's plea, addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, was brought out of Sudan by a delegation from Christian Solidarity International, based in Geneva. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) is besieging an army garrison in the southern Sudanese capital.

Negotiator named Israeli envoy to Egypt

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel appointed an orientalist with peace negotiating experience as its new ambassador to Egypt, Israel Television reported Thursday. David Sultan, deputy director for Middle East affairs at Israel's foreign ministry, replaces Ephraim Doweik, who has appointed Israel's first ambassador to Iraq last week. Mr. Sultan, who is a member of the Israeli negotiating team with Lebanon in the current Middle East peace talks, has served as Israel's chief consul to Milan, Italy, Israel Television said.

Kenya moves arrested refugees into camps

NAIROBI (R) — Hundreds of Somali refugees rounded up by police in Nairobi last weekend were loaded under guard onto buses on Friday for transport to refugee centres. United Nations officials said. The U.N. High Commission for Refugees earlier protested to Kenyan authorities about what it said was the inhumane treatment of the refugees. Some, including many women and children, spent six nights in a freezing open-air compound under police guard. Kenyan officials said the refugees were arrested for failing to register with the authorities or for deserting refugee camps. They were held under guard until their documents could be checked, the officials said. Kenya has blamed the flood of refugees — nearly 300,000 Somalis have entered in recent months — for a rise in crime in Nairobi and other centres. Officials say fugitive soldiers from Somalia have sold guns to Kenyan criminals. Smaller numbers of Ethiopians, Ugandans, Rwandans and Sudanese were rounded up with the Somalis, U.N. officials said. The officials were at first denied access to the detainees but were later allowed to provide them food and medical attention.

Police close murder case after 3,700 years

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police rushed to the scene of a murder south of Tel Aviv on Thursday but arrived 3,700 years too late. The skeleton, with a knife in its chest, was unearthed at a road paving site. But archaeologists said the man had probably been murdered during the Middle Bronze Age. A police spokesman said the case was closed. "The officers on the scene reached the conclusion that finding suspects was unlikely," he said.

Rushdie fears he will never live normal life

OSLO (R) — British author Salman Rushdie, on a secret visit to Oslo to urge international pressure on Iran to lift a death order against him, doubts he will ever be free, organisers of the visit said on Thursday. Mr. Rushdie turned up unannounced to speak to about 90 guests at a Norwegian writers' club on Wednesday night, including authors and Culture Minister Aase Kleiveland. The guests thought they were going to hear a debate about the European Community. "My only chance to be able to live a normal life is united international pressure," he told the meeting, closely guarded by Norwegian police. "Even then I will not be free. There will always be extremist groups." Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a death order against Mr. Rushdie in 1989 for his novel "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding since the order was issued, but in recent months has visited several countries amid tight security — on Wednesday, his Norwegian publisher denied he was in Norway. "People have the impression that things are going better for me, and that's right," he said. "I travel and meet people. But security experts in both British and the United States say that the threat was not diminished."

Eliasson extends talks on pact with Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.N. envoy extended negotiations on Friday on a new pact to allow U.N. relief operations in Iraq after talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tarq Aziz.

Asked about his three-and-a-half hours meeting with Mr. Aziz Friday morning, Jan Eliasson told reporters: "Unfortunately I cannot tell you about the outcome because the talks are continuing."

"I cannot go into detail on the substance of the talks at this sensitive stage," he said. "I am always hopeful but it is a difficult situation."

"This is the fifth day and I hope now with the talks with the deputy prime minister and the foreign minister that we will come to a conclusion but we still have outstanding problems," he added.

Mr. Eliasson, U.N. Emergency relief coordinator, said before seeing Mr. Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf that their meeting would decide if he stayed and continued negotiations or if he left Iraq with no agreement.

"We had three-and-a-half hours of very thorough and intensive talks (with Mr. Aziz) about the outstanding issues and they

will continue later today," he said before going to lunch.

Talks with Mr. Aziz or Mr. Sahaf were to resume late afternoon or evening.

Iraq has paralysed U.N. relief operations since the last pact expired by failing to issue enough permits for U.N. staff and travel permits to allow them to move around the country.

Mr. Eliasson said Thursday three major problems were hampering the negotiations for a new pact after a memorandum of understanding on U.N. operations in Iraq expired on June 30.

They were the U.N.'s need for U.N. guards, free access to all areas of Iraq to reach those in need and the presence in Iraq of non-governmental organisations, such as Oxfam and the Save the Children fund.

Baghdad has asked the United Nations Children's Fund, the largest U.N. agency in Iraq, to close its office in the southern city of Basra and northern city of Mosul.

The number of U.N. international workers in Iraq has fallen to 76 from 600 in April. Only 121 U.N. guards remain in the country, compared with 500 under the old agreement.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Des petites histoires presque vraies
18:10	Les Tortues Ninja
18:30	La Gymnastique
19:00	News in French
19:15	Footcote sur
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
21:10	Super Bloopers
21:30	Encommer
22:00	News in English
22:30	Peugeot Film "Peugeot Partner"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:29	Fajr
05:39	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:39	Dhuhr
16:18	'Asr
19:18	Maghrib
20:40	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlith. Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terranova Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 885326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 624932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	
Min/Max temp.	20 / 30
Aqaba	26 / 37
Deserts	20 / 36
Jordan Valley	25 / 36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.	
NIGHT DUTY	
Dr. Walid Sababneh	779977
Dr. Salim Al Daboubi	761751
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali	740740
Dr. Ahmad Dabesh	791257
First pharmacy	661912
Second pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsan pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	943402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	767111
Amman Municipality	767111
Telephone Information	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Al-Jalal Telephone Repairs	631101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815645
Electric Power	965417

HOSPITALS	
Company	636381
R Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45	New Delhi (RJ)
08:15	Dhahran (RJ)
08:30	Dammam (RJ)
08:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00	Colombo (RJ)
11:00	Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
11:15	Beirut (RJ)
17:00	Cairo (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:15	Beirut (RJ)
07:20	Dammam (RJ)
07:30	Amman, New York (RJ)
12:40	Paris (RJ)
12:45	Rome, Beirut (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
12:45	Dubai (RJ)
13:00	Jeddah (RJ)
13:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:00	Larnaca (RJ)
13:00	Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:15	Beirut (ME)
12:30	Sana'a (Y)
14:30	Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)
21:30	Cairo (MS)
23:30	Dubai (EM)
23:30	Dammam, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower prices in fils per kg.	
Apples (red)	550 / 320
Bananas	300 / 450
Bananas (Mekansar)	350 / 500
Beans	480 / 300
Cabbage	90 / 50
Carrots	250 / 200
Cauliflowers (large)	230 / 180
Cauliflowers (small)	120 / 80
Eggplants	90 / 30
Garlic	550 / 450
Lentils	600 / 500
Marrows (large)	150 / 100
Marrows (small)	320 / 160
Onions (dry)	120 / 90
Onions (green)	150 / 100
Peas	600 / 500
Peppers (hot)	220 / 160
Peppers (sweet)	150 / 100
Potatoes	180 / 120
Sweet Melon	180 / 120
Tomatoes	60 / 30
Watermelons	60 / 20

قناة الفضل

Parliament condemns "conspiracies to partition Iraq"

By Suhair Obaidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Parliament on Thursday condemned an allied plan to create an air exclusion zone in southern Iraq, saying it would lead to the partition of the country.

In a joint statement by the Upper and Lower Houses, Parliament called on all Arab countries to support Iraq and safeguard its sovereignty.

"We condemn and denounce the conspiracies to partition Iraq on ethnic and sectarian bases by the United States, Britain and other countries," the statement said.

It accused the U.S.-led coalition of tightening international sanctions against Iraq and "conducting aggression against its land, people and sovereignty."

Expressing its solidarity with

Baghdad, Parliament said the "attempt to partition Iraq deals a blow to Arab national security as it aims at striking the national security of every Arab country."

It called on all Arab leaders and states "to demonstrate their solidarity with Iraq in order to protect its sovereignty."

Parliament was reacting to an allied plan, suggested by U.S. President George Bush and supported by other Western countries, to ban Iraqi aircraft from flying south of the 32nd parallel, putting the southern third of the country under allied air umbrella.

That would prevent Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's air force from having any control over

Kamhawi warned that the plan could threaten Western interests in the Middle East and will have devastating effects on regional security as well as international economy.

"Such (safe) havens would constitute a prelude to the effective partitioning of Iraq, which would impair the regional balance because it will leave Iran as the virtual power in the area," he said.

Kamhawi, a member of the Royal Commission that drafted Jordan's National Charter, said the plan could also "trigger a chain reaction for redrawing the boundaries of the region."

"The world community and the United States should be careful not to tamper with the region in such a manner because, if the partitioning process starts, developments might prove that nobody could stop its devastating repercussions," he said.



PRINCESS SUMAYA, NASSER JUDEH TIE THE KNOT: Members of the Royal Hashemite family and the Judeh family. Above, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed congratulates Princess Sarvath (Petra photos)

Burning of Al Aqsa Mosque remembered with a call for liberation of Jerusalem

AMMAN (J.T.) — Friday Aug. 21 marked the 24th anniversary

of the burning of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by Zionist extremists. On this occasion the General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem issued a statement reminding the Arab and Muslim nations of their duty to work together to liberate the holy city and its shrines from occupation.

"The hideous crime which was committed by the Zionists in 1969 at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem aimed at the destruction of the holy shrines as part of Israel's ongoing efforts to Judaize the city and evict its Arab people from their homeland," said a congress statement published Friday.

The statement drew the attention of the world Community to the continuing Israeli atrocities in the West Bank and Gaza, since their occupation in 1967 and the drive to settle Jewish immigrants in Arab land.

"The anniversary of the burning of the Al Aqsa mosque should

promote the Arabs and Muslims to move fast and save the holy land from occupation, and the holy shrines from further desecration," the statement said.

The statement said that the peace negotiations, which started in Madrid last year, have achieved nothing and the Palestinians are still without their rights and their homeland, while Israel pursues efforts to implement Judaisation plans in the holy city of Jerusalem.

It voiced the congress's full support for the continued uprising against the Israeli occupation and urged Arab and Islamic nations to extend a helping hand to the Palestinians.

The Jordan News Agency (Petra) also issued a statement on the eve of the anniversary, underlining the need for solidarity among Arab and Muslim nations to thwart Zionist attempts to demolish the mosque and the adjoining

Dome of the Rock in order to build the so-called Jewish Temple in its place.

Petra pointed to Jordan's continued effort to safeguard the holy shrines of Jerusalem, noting that the Kingdom's decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the West Bank in July 1988

excluded matters related to the holy shrines in the city which, it said, are still under the care of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and its affiliated committees.

In his drive to protect the holy places, His Majesty King Hussein has instructed the ministry and its committees to restore the Dome of the Rock and to carry out maintenance work at the Aqsa Mosque. The King pledged \$8.24 million from his personal funds towards this project.

Jordan hosts ESCWA meeting on regional development

By A Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The economic situation in Jordan in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis is expected to get a high exposure when representatives of 13 Arab countries meet in Amman later this month in a U.N. conference for the first time since the Gulf war.

The Aug. 30-Sept. 3 conference of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will essentially focus on regional cooperation. However, expectations that the gathering could contribute towards healing the rift in inter-Arab political relations have been put on hold since the level of Gulf representation will be lower than ministerial.

It was expected that planning ministers of the 13 member countries of ESCWA would be attending the 16th session of the U.N. agency, but conference sources said Friday representation from the Gulf states would perhaps be at under-secretary level.

However, that does not discourage ESCWA from pursuing its objective of enhancing regional cooperation and the agency is in a better position to do so since it does not depend on its member states for direct financing, ESCWA sources said.

According to an international expert on regional cooperation, "it has been proved that most countries tend to sideline political considerations when it comes to

their actual needs in terms of technical assistance from international bodies with independent financing."

The argument is indirectly supported by the chief executive of ESCWA, who points out that there are numerous areas of common interest to the countries of the region and all concerned countries are enthusiastically taking part in the meeting.

There are many projects which are of a regional nature and concern to several countries," said ESCWA regional director-general Tayseer Abdul Jaber, citing as example a remote-sensing project on water resources financed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Islamic Development Bank and ESCWA.

The Amman conference will review ESCWA activities since May 1989, efforts undertaken to address the various consequences of the Gulf crisis on individual countries and assess the outcome of various seminars and general meetings organised by the agency.

These include an Arab ministerial conference on environment and development held in Cairo in September 1991, participation in regional and international meetings on the environment, a meeting on the capabilities and needs of the disabled, a conference on gas development and market prospects, and an expert group meeting on the absorption of



Tayseer Abdul Jaber

returnees in the ESCWA region. The expert group on returnees met in Amman in December 1991 and studied the impact of the returnees on countries like Jordan and Yemen, which bore the brunt of the problem. The outcome of the deliberations, with all its implications and dimensions, will be presented to next week's meeting.

"The report on Jordan is expected to be comprehensive and all-embracing," said an official source. "All aspects of the Jordanian economy and the severe blow the Gulf crisis dealt to the Kingdom would be highlighted," the source added.

Experts believe that unless regional cooperation is restored to the pre-crisis level, particularly in manpower movements, relations between the Gulf states and countries like Jordan and Yemen would remain strained.

Cooperation in labour, where the Gulf states employed hundreds of thousands of workers from Jordan, Sudan, Lebanon

and the occupied territories, was one of the key factors that helped maintain an economic equilibrium in the region.

The balance was upset when the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait, angered by what they perceived as Jordanian and Palestinian support to Iraq in the Gulf crisis, expelled up to 300,000 Jordanian and Palestinian workers in addition to thousands of Sudanese as well as Palestinians holding Lebanese documents.

Saudi Arabia expelled about 850,000 Yemeni workers. "It is true that a new thinking has emerged in the Gulf states of localising the labour force but this is not an easy task and will take decades before they achieve any success," one expert said. In the meantime, he said, "all talk about regional progress, coordination and cooperation will remain on paper" unless they partly restore cooperation in manpower movements.

Other topics expected to be tabled at the ESCWA conference in Amman include the agency's services in agriculture, energy, environment, human resources development, national accounts, preparing economic and population statistics, processing demographic data, science and technology, transport and communications and water-sources development.

"We are a non-political, technical agency, and as such, undertake studies and surveys and make recommendations to governments," Dr. Abdul Jaber told the Jordan Times, adding that the agency had sent six special missions to Kuwait to examine and advise the emirate on issues related to the environment, transport, demography, and other topics.

Dr. Abdul Jaber said the ESCWA will not be able to initiate any development projects in Iraq as long as the international embargo on the country remains in force.

Iraq will be among the countries attending the Amman conference in addition to Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen as well as Jordan.

The conference will also discuss ESCWA's short-term (1992-1993) and medium-term (1993-1997) programmes in financial and human resources development, budget, projects related to helping countries cope with the social and economic repercussions of the Gulf crisis, and plans drawn up in light of prospects for Arab-Israeli peace.

Another major topic is the "economic impact of the 1992 Single European Market on the ESCWA region."

U.N. Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Development, Ji Chaozong, will represent the Secretary General, Boutros Ghali, at the conference and will deliver the keynote address.

GUVS appeals to the public to help finance cancer centre

AMMAN — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Friday issued an appeal to various Jordanian organisations and citizens to help finance the construction of the Al Amal National Cancer Centre, which will provide treatment to the increasing number of cancer patients in the country.

The appeal was made by GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib as preparations got underway for launching week-long activities in support of the centre, which is being set up near the Jordan University Hospital in Amman.

Dr. Khatib urged all people to help contribute to this humanitarian effort through their participation in the activities and through generous donations.

The project, which is expected to cost JD 8 million, is under-

taken by GUVS, and contributions are coming from organisations in Jordan and abroad. Her Majesty Queen Noor was reported last month to be seeking help from international organisations to equip the centre and train its personnel.

The building is now finished but equipment and the necessary facilities are still to be installed, said a GUVS official, who expressed hope that the centre will become operational in two years.

GUVS said a series of meetings chaired by Dr. Khatib were held in the course of the preparations for the activities. Dr. Khatib said that national efforts are needed to ensure that the centre will become a reality.

He said that the cancer centre takes priority on the list of GUVS various programmes in view of the growing number of

cancer patients in Jordan and the rising cost of treatment abroad. He said that GUVS will soon launch a nation wide campaign through the media and other means to acquaint the public with the dangers of cancer, means of early discovery, and the need for helping victims of the disease.

Work on the construction of the centre, which will provide full services in the diagnosis, treatment and other related services to the public free of charge, began in 1989.

The centre will include an outpatient clinic for radiation treatment, an operation room, a computerised axonic tomography scan room, an X-ray room for breast examinations, an ultrasound examination room, offices for specialists, laboratories, a health awareness centre, a library and a cancer archives unit.

Amman: Commuters' nightmare

By Lacey Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Put on your boxing gloves you're about to enter the ring of public transportation where commuters battle boredom, check-a-block buses, and sometimes, each other.

"It's terrible," said Randa Masri, about the 105th in an estimated 200-passenger line heading for Bayader Wadi Seer.

"You have to be strong to catch a bus. I just get put further back in the line. People push and shove. Discipline just breaks down when a bus arrives," she said as passengers engulf a jockey's yawning door. This is one match where gender and social norms fall by the wayside.

A supervisor with the look and air of a rough New York bouncer, blows whistles, blocks punches and referees bruised passengers aboard.

"About 6,000 people ride this line and 2,000 cause hassles," he said with slight exaggeration as a bead of sweat trickled down his brow in the morning chill.

"It's hard work," he said.

Ten minutes later, another jockey arrives.

Round two. And the clock

dings only 6:40 a.m.

Whether to Bayader Wadi Seer, Ras Al Ein or Jabal Al Akhdar, passengers say they wait anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes for an overcrowded, out-dated cash-strapped public transportation system to ferry them to work.

According to Public Transportation Corporation (PTC) Operations Manager Marwan Kheetan, PTC was caught off guard with the return of about 300,000 expatriates from the Gulf, many of them without cars.

More people are also leaving their cars for buses to save money, burdening the network that serves 180,000 to 200,000 people a day in Amman.



May the strongest commuter win

Two hundred and fifty buses ply Greater Amman's streets and Mr. Kheetan says 200 more are needed. He adds that in six months the corporation expects to award franchises to private companies for several undisclosed routes in South and West Amman.

After conducting bus, passenger and traffic studies of its routes in 1990, PTC is considering plans to revamp its network to "ring routes," bypassing the more cumbersome, centralised termin-

al system in which about 90 per cent of the buses go downtown. If given the green light, shuttle terminals between Raghadan and Abdali for example may also be introduced.

But a new transport approach appears far off in the future. Reorganising a network of 91 routes run by 500 to 600 operators could be a logistical nightmare.

"The bus system could be much better," Mr. Kheetan concedes. Passengers agree.

Foreigners complain of no bus maps and locals grouse about apathetic drivers who stop when they want.

"Often I never even know where I am going," said John, an American studying Arabic in Jordan who recently found himself in Zarqa — instead of downtown Amman.

"Last time I tried catching a bus in Amman I ended up in Zarqa," he said, adding that like many Ammanites he can't always afford taxi fare.

More taxis is not the solution

to transport blues.

According to the Traffic Department (TD), there are 5,500 yellow taxis in Amman. And with the capital population at 1.5 million, "the ratio of people to taxis is already probably one of the highest in the world," TD General Director Ahmed D'mour said.

Mr. D'mour said officials balk at issuing more licenses because "good transportation depends on buses. Even if we increase taxis to 10,000 we will not solve the transport problem. They are now doing the work of buses."

Traffic officials say more taxis will cause more traffic jams, adding to Amman's 182,491 private cars and 13,331 yellow and white taxis, small and big buses combined.

The traffic department added that 30 to 37 per cent of traffic accidents are caused by the taxis and buses, and 8 per cent by private cars.

But dare take a cab between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., or later at night one could wait at least 90 minutes.

The result, the quintessential public rider — a harried, sullen-faced commuter who shadow boxes — but with the shadow of public transportation.

As Basma, a nurse late for work stranded at Raghadan terminal said: "For God's sake someone has to solve this problem."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Chess tournament opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Prince Mohammad's Open Chess Tournament started Thursday at Al Akhadiyya Hall at the University of Jordan, and will run through Aug. 24. Taking part in the championship are 32 players under the age of 16, 80 players above the age of 16 and 12 female players from different ages. Also taking part are six players from Iraq who hold international awards and an international teacher from Yemen. The championship is made up of nine rounds, the duration of each is two hours.

Land Dept. holds symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land and Survey Department recently held a symposium for directors of land and land registration departments during which department officials were briefed on technical and administrative issues related to the parcellation of land, floors and apartments. The official also discussed the apartment law and regulations on registering apartments.

Post office directors receive training

KARAK (Petra) — A week-long training course on postal services opens at Hazza Al Majali Hall Monday. About 140 participants, including directors of post offices and their assistants and staff from the telecommunication corporation will participate in the course. The course includes lectures and practical applications on handling telephone and postal services.



New collection from TISSOT

Swiss Quality and classic design at unbeatable prices: These are the outstanding features of the new Seastar Automatic Collection from TISSOT. The round cases with their integrated metal bracelets are available in three different sizes and three attractive finishes: Stainless steel, bicolour, or plated in yellow gold. The dials come in a choice of colours: silver grey, gold or black with elegant hour markings, and a number of models are decorated with sparkling sapphire stones for an extra touch of luxury. All models show the time in hours, minutes and seconds. The exquisite ladies' models feature a date display, while the medium and men's sizes have displays for both the date and the day of the week.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Salama Kanaan at Al Khazrat House in Umm Al Ksoud village, near the Arabian Horse Club.
- Art exhibition by Lebanese artist Basma Bstoufi at the Royal Cultural Centre — opening ceremony at 6 p.m.

Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

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The decision to go

THE CASE for boycotting or putting off the next round of peace talks in Washington because of the U.S. agreement to grant Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees was democratically presented at last week's Damascus meeting and democratically rejected. The decision to go on time was taken not so much out of disagreement with the serious concerns of the Palestinians and the other Arab parties over the granting of the loans but rather to avoid giving Israel an added excuse to derail the entire peace process. As a matter of fact the Arabs, especially the Palestinian side, have a great deal to be alarmed about in the wake of President George Bush's declarations following his summit with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin two weeks ago and his consent to grant the requested loan guarantee in spite of the serious shortcomings of Rabin's commitment to scale down his country's settlement drive in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Obviously the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus must have decided that there is a better way to deal with the problem than by staying away from the sixth round of bilateral negotiations. In substance, saying no to the peace parleys at this very critical stage is not exactly the most effective way to rectify the serious flaws in the Bush-Rabin agreement on the loan guarantees issue. For more than four decades the Arabs were accused of having the word "no" on the tip of their tongues as the Arab countries and peoples consistently ended up paying dearly for always prescribing the wrong medicine for the Arab-Israeli conflict. It appears that the best way to deal with the continuing Israeli housing campaign on Arab soil is to go ahead with the plans to attend the Washington peace talks and raise the issue right from the start of the negotiations. Given the decision of the Rabin government not to stop work on some 11,000 housing units already under construction, it would be most appropriate to put this problem on the agenda of the coming round as a matter of highest priority. Even more pressing from the Arab point of view is the billions of dollars that Israel receives year in and year out from the U.S. as outright grants for economic or military purposes. This subject needs to be aired out at the Arab-U.S. bilateral relations level with a view to making the continuation of this massive American aid to Israel contingent on the attainment of real progress in the peace process. In retrospect these grants and military and economic assistance that Washington accords Israel are much more serious than the agreed-upon loan guarantees.

The most potent manner of addressing these matters is surely not by way of "punishing" ourselves by staying away from the approaching peace talks. Therefore the Damascus meeting did the right thing by proclaiming the decision in favour of attending the Washington negotiations in spite of all the misgivings surrounding these talks.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily welcomed the prime minister's pledge that the government would be ready to look into any grievances and any specific case which might entail excesses to laws and regulations. The paper noted with satisfaction the prime minister's positive response to the demands of the Public Freedoms Committee of the Lower House of Parliament and said that the discussions in Parliament on various issues of concern to the public interest reflects the true face of democracy and the interaction between the legislative and executive authorities in Jordan. The Parliament sessions where discussions of issues of real concern to the public on the one hand and cooperation between the government and the Lower House are displayed reflect the open mindedness on the part of both sides and their determination to pursue joint efforts towards enhancing the democratic process and towards serving the public at all levels, said the daily. Furthermore the prime minister's announcement that the doors of government officials will be open at any department for public complaints reflects the determination of the government to deal with all cases with a firm hand and to hold officials and those in charge responsible for their actions, the paper continued. It said that a coherent, integrated and united society provides the best guarantee for further successes for democracy and more development for the country.

THE WESTERN plots aimed at partitioning Iraq are now clear to all in light of the latest announcement by the three colonial powers U.S., Britain and France, of creating an exclusive air zone in southern Iraq, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Fahd Al Fanek said that the three colonial powers intend to partition Iraq into Kurdistan, Shiite zone and central Iraq to make it easier for them to control the Arab country and loot its wealth. It is not strange to see the colonial powers intent on partitioning the Arab World into states, mini-states and sheikhdoms but it is really strange to see Arab countries keeping silent about this open conspiracy, said the writer. He said that the common enemies of the Arab World are determined to colonise the Arab World by all means, and it is regrettable to see certain Arab states supporting such plots. After Iraq, it would not be surprising to see the colonial powers partitioning Syria and Egypt. The Gulf states, which believe that the partitioning of Iraq would serve their own interests, should realise before it is too late that a Shiite state in southern Iraq, in alliance with Iran, will constitute a constant threat to their countries and the whole of the Arabian peninsula, warned the writer. He said that a united Iraq is a protective wall to the Arab World in the east and constitutes the only hope for the Arab World which is trying to strike a balance of power in the face of the Israeli danger.

We are making Europe's Palestinians

By Paddy Ashdown

BUDAPEST — On the steep road leading to the Manjaca prisoner-of-war camp in western Bosnia is a sign that reads, in Serbo-Croat, "Za Novi Zivot Bifet" ("To the New Life Café"). I doubt if the prisoners who go this way to their incarceration on the hill see the irony; come to think of it, I doubt if their guards do, either.

The ethnic war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is too full of ironies for people to notice such a small one. Besides, they are too busy trying desperately to hang on to the life they already have to spend much time thinking about what a new one might be like.

There is something especially bizarre about visiting the gun positions above Sarajevo that had bombarded me in the city the week before; about meeting the sons, brothers and husbands in the Serbian camps of the women I had seen so desperate for news of them in the Croatian camp; about seeing one ethnic group subject to terrorism and house-burning in one community but being the burners and the terrorists in the next.

This is a war of minorities. They are all — Serb, Croat, Muslim, Orthodox or Catholic — national minorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina: which may help to explain why they exercise any local majority they enjoy with such ferocity.

The problem for the rest of us, especially in Europe, is that what we see in this bewildering conflict is not a curiosity produced by their complex past, but a glimpse of the way our peace will be threatened in future.

Through this war we are establishing the precedents and standards by which the ethnic conflicts that will dominate the next decades will be fought — and we are not doing a very good job of it.

Having seen this conflict from both sides, I remain convinced it could have been avoided if the United Nations and the great powers had acted differently.

Our clumsy diplomacy made the conflict more likely. Our failure of will prevented us limiting the scale and ferocity of the war in its early stages. And our present shambling indecisiveness makes it likely that the conflict will widen, that the standing of

the U.N. will be damaged and the killing will continue on a horrific scale.

Not only that: having failed to use our power to stop or limit the war, we are failing to protect the innocent human flotilla and jet-sam who are the real sufferers.

In the Manjaca camp, terribly undernourished prisoners, who have been moved there from the neighbouring and now infamous Omarska, sit huddled and cowed waiting for the future. All tell me (at my insistence, out of earshot of the guards) that their conditions are better than they were. To my eyes, they are still totally unacceptable. But at least, as the prison doctor confirms, they are not being beaten and are adequately fed.

For this small mercy, many thanks. But those thanks go to the international press; not, I fear, to the Red Cross, which did not expose the situation at Omarska, has not been here — the commandant tells me — for 10 days.

These prisoners, many of whom I suspect are non-combatants, are still very weak. They need medicines that the Serbs tell me, they do not have because of the international sanctions. And they need more food than they are getting to make good their undernourishment before disease strikes or winter comes.

Nothing can excuse those who are in charge of these people for what they did. Nor is the international community guiltless. Our institutions failed to monitor conditions effectively enough, and we are failing now to respond with enough speed to put things right.

And what about those places we cannot see? There are living nightmares going on in the besieged city of Gorazde, where 3,000 Serbs are being kept hostage by the Muslims, who are in turn besieged by the Serbs. By all accounts, the condition of the Muslims in the city is bad. God knows what it is like for the hostages. Yet Gorazde is only 20 kilometres from the main U.N. presence in Sarajevo.

A single attempt has been made to visit the city, but this foundered when one vehicle slid over a mine and had a back axle blown off. That was three weeks ago: since then — nothing.

What is the purpose of the U.N. mission if it does not insist it gets humanitarian assistance to the worst areas, even if that requires military protection? We are now told this is "under consideration." In the meantime, the people of Gorazde and many other towns must continue to live with torture and starvation, while the "new world order" we are building is bogged down by self-analysis and doubt.

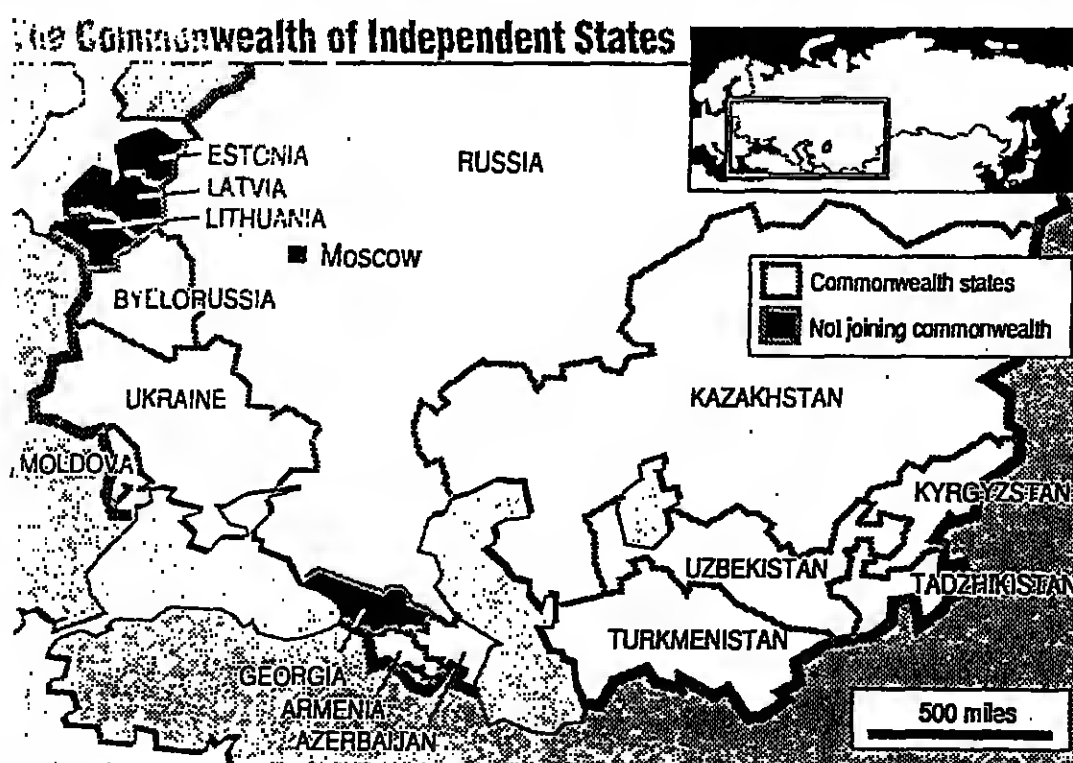
Or consider the refugee camp at Trnopolje, where around 3,000 are refugees, mostly Muslims. They include many women and children and young babies. They have gathered here because they have to go somewhere. Their houses have been burnt and their lives threatened. Muslim extremists pressure the men to join up with the guerrillas, so they have come here for safety. But on most recent nights the unprotected camp has been raided by Serbian extremists who beat them, rob them of what little they have left and it is claimed, rape the women.

Things are better now. Local Serbs have become so moved by their plight that they now protect the camp from the depredations of their compatriots.

Meanwhile, there are four makeshift earth lavatories. Many defecate in the open, close to their feeding and sleeping areas. The sick and wounded lie among the filth, despite the best efforts of the few overwhelmed medical workers. There is no effective cover. The lucky ones have gathered their meagre possessions together to make rudimentary shelters that provide shade. Many simply lie in the sun.

Here we are, daily, making Europe's Palestinians of the future. The Bosnian Muslims are the very opposite of fundamentalists, but they are being radicalised with every unaring moment that passes.

And where is the United Nations, which could be protecting them? It is still considering the question of whether it should establish safe havens for refugees in the disputed territories. What is the U.N.'s purpose if, having failed to take the necessary action to stop this war, it will not even act to save these pitiful people who are its victims? — The Independent



Yeltsin wants to be president of all Russians

By Oliver Wates

Reuter

MOSCOW — A year after leading his people against a hardline communist coup, Boris Yeltsin is trying to forge a new role as "president of all the Russians." While cleaving firmly to the general banner of "reform", Mr. Yeltsin seems at times to put himself above the political fray, the battle between fast-track and gradualist reformers.

Half a dozen rival factions grapple for power and influence beneath him, like courtiers intriguing for the tsar's ear in the imperial courts of the past.

He has no party but his legitimacy, from his presidential election victory of 14 months ago, is secure. There remains no obvious alternative leader for his 150 million people.

The president stressed that he viewed himself as the representative of the whole nation, "leading liberal Viktor Shein said after a meeting with Mr. Yeltsin in July.

"The president said he must reflect the interests of all social groups, to some extent even those who supported the 'reds' (the communists)."

Mr. Yeltsin has come a long way since he mounted a tank to

roar defiance at the coup leaders seeking to reimpose communism. He was already slowly winning his battle for power when eight associates of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev launched their bungled putsch on August 19, 1991.

But his heroic role as focus of domestic and foreign resistance to the coup speeded up the outcome.

Four months later the Soviet Union broke up and Mr. Gorbachev was cast out into the political wilderness. In Russia, at least, Mr. Yeltsin ruled supreme.

Since then he has had some undisputed successes. Full-scale Yugoslav-type civil war has been avoided in Russia and the other former Soviet republics.

Ethnic conflicts splintered dangerously in Moldova and the Caucasus region. But only the age-old Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh has flared into serious warfare.

His peacekeeping initiatives in Moldova and south Ossetia have had some success and he has helped keep the lid on a potentially devastating rift with Ukraine.

Numerous predictions of riots

and civil disturbance in Russia itself have come to naught, so far. Abroad Mr. Yeltsin's profile is high. A visit to Washington in June was a triumph and he impressed at last month's G-7 summit with the leaders of the capitalist West.

For most Russians, however, any assessment of Mr. Yeltsin's record must centre on the economy. Russians are a deeply sceptical people, but what euphoria there was last August has long gone.

Mr. Yeltsin in power has paid the price for the economic chaos, the hardship, unemployment, inflation, the sheer lack of certainty in people's lives.

In July his popularity fell, according to one opinion poll, below that of his more conservative vice-president. A mere 24 per cent of Russians said they fully trusted him.

This may be exaggerated and many people seem more disenchanted than angry. But criticism of Mr. Yeltsin personally is increasing too.

A tiny but vocal alliance of embittered ex-communists and nationalists accuses him of betraying Russia to the West. Former liberal allies are con-

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Arabs should take a firm stand on peace talks,

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The press in the past week gave prominence to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, due to resume in Washington on Aug. 24, the threats directed at Iraq and a host of domestic issues.

Under the title "Postpone the Coming Negotiations," a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Arabs should take a very firm stand with regard to the peace negotiations with Israel; in light of the recent American loan guarantees to Israel and the continued Israeli intransigent stand, it is best for the Arabs to put off the negotiations, said the paper.

Salameh Ekour reminded readers of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statements in the Knesset that failed to mention any intention on the part of the Jewish state to abandon the occupied Arab lands.

The writer also noted that the Israelis want to give the Palestinians a mere self-rule, under Israeli umbrella, and this should never be accepted by the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that Arabs should open their eyes to Washington's new policies and see whether it is committed to its previous pledges.

Saleh Qallab said that Washington had been claiming that it did not support the Jewish settlement programme, but responded to Israel's request for the loan guarantees the U.S. knows will be used to build settlements on Arab land. The writer urged Arab countries involved in the talks to be on their guard.

The change in Washington's position with regard to the loan guarantees offered to Israel could not have come about all of a sudden, said Ibrahim Al Absi in Al Ra'i daily.

The columnist said that this move on the part of the U.S. administration was "carefully planned to serve the American president and help him win the Jewish votes."

Mr. Bush gave the loans to Israel without getting a pledge that the settlement programme in the occupied Arab land will be halted, said the writer.

This bias towards Israel and the total disregard for the Palestinian rights means that Washington is allowing Israel to have a free hand in the occupied Arab lands and that it will not force the Jewish state to abide by U.N. Security Resolutions at the coming negotiations, the writer said.

To win the Jewish votes in the presidential elections in November, George Bush is trying to force the Arabs to accept Israel's conditions for peace on the one hand and has already given Israel the loan guarantees it requested on the other, said Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i daily.

The writer said that the American taxpayer is being forced to finance the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands, to serve Mr. Bush's selfish quest to sit in the White House again, and the Palestinians are forced to remain under Israeli repression so as the Zionists

can have their states strengthened, said the writer.

He said that the Palestinians should not take part in the coming negotiations because Mr. Bush has gone back on his pledges of refusing to confront Israel's drive to build the settlements.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Washington's loan guarantees to Israel are bound to prompt Mr. Rabin to take a very intransigent stand at the coming Washington parley. The daily said that Mr. Rabin, backed by loan guarantees, is bound to abort the coming talks with the Arabs by holding on to Israel's position and to the settlement programme which stands as an obstacle to peace.

With reference to Iraq, Al Ra'i daily said that the three western powers: France, U.S. and Britain, are currently making final preparations for aggression on Iraq. While the Americans are claiming that they do not seek a partition of Iraq, they in effect work towards attaining that particular goal with the help of their western allies and the Arab countries in the Gulf region, said the paper.

The coming aggression would not doubt demolish homes, hospitals and schools, killing thousands of innocent people but, said the paper, the western nations, which claim to be upholding the principles of democracy and human rights, are intent on their civil mission regardless of the magnitude of its atrocity and the loss of life.

After implementing its conspiracy in the north of Iraq, the U.S. has now moved to the south under the pretext of protecting the Shiites and is planning yet another aggression on the people of Iraq, said Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour.

To pave the ground for its aggression, the U.S. has created the proper tense atmosphere in the region; helped by the media campaigns launched by Gulf states, said the writer.

He said that the Americans are ignoring the fact that the Iraqis continue their provocations against Iraq in the south, and they are now coming to the help of Iran which is aggressing the Arab World.

Ever since the Americans and the Kuwaitis announced their intention to carry out military exercises along the Iraqi borders, it was known that plots were under way to launch aggression on the Iraqi people, said Sawt Al Shaab daily.

The paper said that the Gulf states should realise that the fire they are rekindling would not be prevented from reaching their territory.

Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab newspaper of Cairo for calling on Mr. Bush to launch aggression on Iraq as the only means of securing his reelection as president.

The writer said that Al Ahran is the voice of evil, trying to maintain Egypt's role in the aggression on the Iraqi people, but it is doubtful that the Americans will base their strategies on the requests of their servants in Egypt.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the western allies, who are intent on partitioning Iraq into three zones, could in the near future decide to partition Syria into Sunni and Druze zones and Egypt into Christian and Islamic zones, among other states, within their colonial plan.

The writer said that the Gulf states should realise that the eight million Shiites in southern Iraq would constitute a permanent threat to the existence of the Gulf states and the Arab region as a whole because they would be exploited by Iran to implement Tehran's plans.

Turning to domestic affairs, Fakhr Kwar, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily tackled the question of foreign workers in Jordan noting that while the number of Egyptian workers is shrinking, Asian workers are finding their way into the country.

The writer said that the foreign labour merchants in Jordan are trying to convince the Ministry of Labour that it would be more profitable for the treasury to bring in Asian workers who pay JD 100 if they are employed in farming, not a mere JD 10 paid by the Arab workers.

He urged the Ministry of Labour to turn down any move to import foreign labour and to give priority in employment to Jordanian workers.

A columnist in Al Dustour, Mubammad Daud, called attention to the traffic congestion in Amman and other towns.

It seems that the concerned authorities are not taking proper measures to cope with the expansion of Jordanian cities and the increase in population and therefore neither are transportation facilities sufficient nor are proper measures taken to deal with the traffic congestion on the main streets, said the writer.

Nazih, a columnist in Al Ra'i, criticised the concerned authorities for giving licences to people to open kindergartens without making sure that the premises are suitable for children.

The writer said that people wishing to obtain licences for kindergartens are often granted the request by the Ministry of Education but the ministry has no coordination with the municipal authorities to ensure that the requirements are met for such facilities.

Dr. Jawad Al Anani, who writes for Al Dustour, said that information services, particularly television, have been offering an excellent service to the public in terms of presenting documentary, entertainment or other programmes. He said that the government should open the way for private television and radio stations which can operate on purely commercial terms and can ensure a wider range of programmes in Arabic, English, French and other languages and also can earn their living through commercial advertising. The writer said that change is happening to all sectors of life and the media is one sphere which cannot escape such development.

LETTERS

Glory vs. gold

To the Editor:

I am the other Jordanian artist who participated in the 5th Annual International Plastic Art Festival at Mahras, Tunis, and who has not won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize for outstanding achievement. It was a festival of cooperation of the artists with the people of Mahras and competition was only with one's self, as true artists always try to do.

Invitations were sent out to various artists from different countries to come to Mahras and work with the people to create artwork. My own contribution was an outdoor sculpture in wood, 4.5 metres high, erected in the vicinity of the grand mosque in the heart of the town.

I felt compelled to write this letter because of an earlier brief titled "Jordanian artist wins first prize" (Jordan Times August 12), claiming that prizes were given to various artists. Gold colour commemorative medals were given to all participants.

Some of us at Mahras have succeeded in depicting truth and beauty, while others were hoping for imaginary 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Samer Tabbas,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Jordan heads for bilaterals

(Continued from page 1)

the evident reaffirmation of the strategic alliance between the U.S. and Israel "at a time when the Arabs and Israelis are engaged in peace talks," Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times Friday.

"We reaffirmed the principles and positions that we announced at our last (coordination) meeting in Damascus," he said in July. Dr. Abu Jaber said. "These principles and positions constitute a new Arab initiative."

The June meeting reaffirmed the Arab countries' commitment to the peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and land in exchange for peace. It called for a total freeze in Israel's settlement activities in the occupied territories and respect for the human rights of the Palestinian people.

Jordanian officials and peace negotiators have said that they hope for a "new Israeli logic and approach" to the peace process and expected the Jewish state to be more forthcoming in the terms of the reference for the peace process — 242 and 338.

At the same time, they have also said that the American loan guarantees for Israel could negatively affect the Jewish state's approach since it has already secured what it had been hoping for.

"We Arabs would have really preferred to go inside the rooms with no tension around so that we can explore Rabin's new peace approach if he has a new approach," Dr. Tarawneh was quoted as saying by Reuters.

"The granting of the loans for all practical reasons is a non-starter for the peace process."

The Palestinians said before last week's meeting that they would seek a delay in the resumption of bilateral talks since American clarifications over the loan guarantees — whether or not they were contingent on a total suspension of Israel's settlement activities — were "inadequate."

According to informed sources, the Palestinians, during the Damascus meeting, did seek a delay in the bilateral talks but other Arab delegations argued that no purpose would be served by such an approach. Instead, the sources said, all Arab teams agreed that the issue of Israel's settlement activities should top the agenda for the Washington talks.

"The Arab side will definitely demand to know the details of the loan guarantees and whether there are strong provisions to ensure that the funds will not be spent on settlements in the occupied territories and will not free Israeli budget allocations to be channelled to the occupied territories for settling Israelis," said one source.

Mr. Rabin has said that President Bush understood that there would not be a total freeze in settlements in return for the loan guarantees — a major shift from the president's earlier position. The Israeli prime minister also reaffirmed that work would continue on up to 11,000 housing units in the occupied territories and that there would not be any halt to building what he describes as vital to Israel's "security."

"Settlements are settlements. We do not accept Rabin's classification of settlements — 'political'."

Palestinians delayed

(Continued from page 1)

occupied territories. Dr. Ashrawi said the delegation had asked the United States, a cosponsor of the talks with Russia, to intervene.

A U.S. diplomat, who insisted on anonymity, said contacts were being made "to try to figure out if something can be done to permit the talks to resume" on time.

Gad Ben-Ari, spokesman for Prime Minister Rabin, declined comment, saying it was "an army matter."

Before the bridge dispute, Dr. Ashrawi told an earlier news conference that Mr. Rabin's government was still building Jewish settlements and violating Palestinians' rights even as it talked of making peace.

"We haven't seen any concrete or substantive changes on the ground," Dr. Ashrawi complained. "Primarily we hope to see that their statements of intent will be translated into action and the settlement activities and human rights violations will cease."

Meanwhile, Israeli newspapers reported Friday that despite Mr. Rabin's pledge to limit Jewish settlement, he approved a major new highway for settlers that will take hundreds of acres of Arab land in the occupied West Bank.

The daily Davar said building the road from Jerusalem to the West Bank settlement of Efrat was personally approved by Mr. Rabin, although Finance Minister Avraham Shochat objected to the \$90 million cost.

al and 'security' as well as building in and around Jerusalem," Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times.

A statement issued after the Damascus meeting Thursday described Mr. Rabin's refusal to totally suspend settlement construction as "a blatant violation of the basis of the Middle East peace process" and called for a "united stand in order to confront the operation of Judaizing Jerusalem."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, announcing the outcome of the Damascus meeting, said Thursday that "the next round of talks is extremely important since it will show whether Israel is serious about peace or whether it will persist in its rejection of withdrawing from the occupied territories."

Faisal Hussein, head of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks, said that the Palestinians had agreed to attend the Washington talks but were "not committed to anything."

"We can go and we can negotiate," he said. "But to negotiate is not what we are committed to what is presented to us."

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said earlier on Friday in the occupied Jerusalem that the United States was favouring Israel over Arabs.

"It wasn't an easy decision to take," Dr. Ashrawi said of Palestinian agreement to attend the talks. "We still feel that... that balance has been hit in many ways."

The final statement of the Damascus meeting also expressed "extreme concern over the renewed talk about Israeli military superiority."

It was a reference to a pledge by President Bush during his meeting with Mr. Rabin two weeks ago. "This raises legitimate questions about the role of the United States as an honest broker and encourages Israel to continue its occupation of Arab territories."

The statement called on the United States and Russia — cosponsors of the Middle East peace process — to act as "a driving force and an honest mediator."

Another decision taken by the meeting, Dr. Abu Jaber said, was to "affirm that Syria and Egypt have a strong, influential role in bringing about Arab solidarity."

Syria and Egypt, members of the American-led coalition which ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February last year, enjoy good relations with the Gulf states. Ties between Jordan and the Palestinians on the one hand and the Gulf states on the other were strained as a result of their refusal to endorse the military option to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Law on parties cleared

(Continued from page 1)

punished according to the provisions of the penal code."

Party finances, the law states, will be subject to government scrutiny.

It also specifies that political parties must have at least 50 members at all times and a five-member leadership.

Parties will be licensed with the approval of the Interior Ministry. So far at least 55 political groups have indicated that they want legal status.

The bill allows parties to own newspapers "to express their views freely," which will enhance press freedoms which have developed over the last three years of liberalisation.

Parliament is in the process of passing a press and publication law.

While it forbids sectarianism and discrimination, the law accords political parties protection from official harassment such as electronic surveillance, unless it can be shown that they are engaging in anti-Constitution activities.

The bill includes penalties for those who violate the rules regarding external funding and other provisions. Fines range from JD 200 to JD 2,000 and from a minimum two-month prison term up to a maximum of two years.

appoint the deputies... we don't want anyone to control us."

Israel keeps some 1,000 soldiers and runs a proxy militia in border strip in South Lebanon occupied since 1983. Residents there also observed a shutdown on Friday and all passageways linking the enclave to the rest of south Lebanon were closed.

Israel's policy chief for Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, said on Thursday the elections were a fraudulent, coercive attempt to make Syria's presence there permanent.

"You can't have free polls with foreign forces controlling everything in Lebanon," said restaurant owner Nadia Hah.

As she spoke, some dozen soldiers on foot patrol took down posters of rebel General Michel Aoun, who from exile in France told the newspaper Le Figaro on Thursday the polls were a sham.

Besides Mr. Aoun's followers, the Christian opposition includes the Palmage party of George Saadeh, Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces, the National Liberal party of Dori Chamoun and the National Bloc of self-exiled deputy Raymond Edde.

Naji Habr, a 26-year-old carpenter, said: "The government is dividing the country... by holding the elections now they are defying half of the Lebanese people."

The Christian opposition, which has called for a boycott of the polls, has asked residents of eastern and northern Lebanon to mark Sunday as a day of mourning for freedom.

The government says the elections, the first since 1972, would express the will of the people and demonstrate Lebanon's democratic values.

But many of the 700,000 Christians among Lebanon's two million voters fear Damascus could use its forces to support its allies in and around Beirut.

"We want a freely-elected Lebanese parliament, not a Syrian or an Israeli one," 45-year-old Elias Haddad said in the Christian suburb of Badaro. "We want to elect it, not have them

law.

"When it goes into effect, the political parties law, together with the press and publications law, will give Jordanians more political and personal freedom than virtually all Arab countries," a political analyst said.

While it forbids sectarianism and discrimination, the law accords political parties protection from official harassment such as electronic surveillance, unless it can be shown that they are engaging in anti-Constitution activities.

The bill includes penalties for those who violate the rules regarding external funding and other provisions. Fines range from JD 200 to JD 2,000 and from a minimum two-month prison term up to a maximum of two years.

Lebanese rightists stage strike

(Continued from page 1)

Syria has 40,000 troops deployed in most of Lebanon under a 1976 peace-keeping mandate from the Arab League. It refuses to withdraw forces from the coastal sector and central mountains before the elections.

Three Sunni Muslim politicians — Tammam Salam, Mohammad Mashanak and Mohammad Amin Daouk — suspended their candidacies early this week.

They said the split over the elections "posed a serious threat to national (Muslim-Christian) unity, without which Lebanon cannot survive."

Army and police beefed up security in the capitals eastern sector where posters urged residents to boycott the polls.

"If the elections take place that means annexing Lebanon to Syria because Syria is conducting these elections," Edmond Jbara, a 52-year-old Christian taxi driver, told Reuters. "They will not be free because Syria will impose its lists."

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King continues recovery

(Continued from page 1)

try and the whole nation.

"The kind cable which Your Majesty sent me yesterday (Thursday) and in which you asked me to convey your noble message to the Jordanian people, has left a great impact on us all because it reflected your high spirit and courageous and extraordinary leadership. Your people have learned from your leadership that difficulties are part of life experiences and that their leader has always been with them even when distances separates them and obstacles stood in the way."

"Your Majesty, wherever they live, are relentlessly working to keep the march as you wanted it: A model and expression of the Arab citizen's aspiration for an Arab renaissance based on human dignity, rights and freedom in an atmosphere of tolerance, justice and democracy."

"In doing so, your people are following an approach inspired by your vision. They are building from your resolve more strength and from your will more courage, which will enable them to face up to the challenges. While working to attain the objective of this march, the Jordanian people long for, God willing, your safe return home."

On Thursday, King Hussein reassured Crown Prince Hassan in a telephone conversation that he was in good health following a series of tests which he underwent at the Mayo Clinic. The King also informed the Regent that after the medical team had conducted a full and comprehensive exam it was discovered that the cause of the hemorrhage was a stricture in the lower third of the left ureter, and that based on the advice of the team, he was to undergo a surgery. The surgery was to be conducted by Dr. Barrett, and attended by the Jordanian medical team accompanying His Majesty.

The Crown Prince also received from His Majesty the following letter.

"Your Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent... greetings."

"I send to you my dear brother, and to our larger Jordanian family, my best wishes of love and appreciation."

"My thoughts are with you all, and I hold the greatest confidence in your efforts and endeavours to persevere on the road towards freedom and justice, where the individual can enjoy a better life of dignity and democracy."

"I thank all those who have enquired after my well being, and I pray to the Almighty to protect our people."

"Finally, I share with you the joy of my dear niece Sumaya on the occasion of her wedding, and my pleasure at her response to my assistance, prior to my departure, that my illness and absence not delay this happy and joyous occasion. My congratulations to her and her husband, and may God bless them both."

He said Western reports about the south had been fabricated in an attempt to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and partitioning the country.

Commenting on the proposed Western plan, the head of Iran's judiciary said Friday that Tehran opposed the presence of foreign powers, especially the United States.

Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said he hoped Iraq's "Muslim people would run the affairs of their country according to their own wish," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

"Iran is interested in Iraq's territorial integrity and against the presence of foreign powers, particularly of the United States, in the region," the agency quoted Mr. Yazdi as saying in a sermon at Tehran University.

Jane's Defence Weekly, in a study cited by Baghdad diplomats, said this month that the air force had begun to show signs of fresh activity and Iraq's army could be at 40 per cent of its pre-Gulf war manpower.

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Kenya lifts ban on airlifts

(Continued from page 1)

flights resulted from negotiations Friday morning between Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, U.S. Ambassador Smith Hempstone and Marine Brigadier General Frank Liberti, commander of the U.S. airlift.

Foreign Minister Wilson Ndolo Ayah said the earlier flight ban resulted from a misunderstanding.

"This was a complex effort organised on short notice and some details were not adequately worked out in advance," he said.

A team of 16 U.S. soldiers was flown Friday to a military airstrip outside Wajir, in northeastern Kenya, to set up a communications station that will direct aid flights.

More than 400,000 people live in 11 border refugee camps, 330,000 of them Somalis who have fled the famine, war and anarchy that have claimed tens

and perhaps hundreds of thousands of lives in their country.

Aid officials estimate that 1,000 to 2,000 people die daily, and that 1.5 million are at risk of starving to death within weeks if aid does not arrive.

The country of 8.5 million has fallen into virtual anarchy as various groups battle to fill the vacuum left by the January 1991 overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

Until recently, Somalia was largely ignored by the international community despite warnings of a coming disaster by the Red Cross and other aid groups as long as nine months ago. Much more attention has been paid to the war in Yugoslavia, though, more people have died in Somalia.

The first U.S. flight into Somalia itself was expected late next week to the town of Baidoa, one of the hardest hit communities.

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Analysts said that both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton have decided the voters cannot stomach the tax increases and spending cuts that would be needed to reduce the red ink and have put the day of reckoning until after the November election.

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Mr. Bush, with Vice-President Dan Quayle in tow, was heading to Mississippi, the first stop of his effort to reclaim the south from the Democrats.

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Lebanese driver Adel Matni wins Rumman Hill Climb

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lebanese driver Adel Matni, in his Lancia Delta HF International won one of the top auto sports events in Jordan the Rumman Hill Climb — with a total time of four minutes and 21.534 seconds.

Sinan Sandi took the second place in four minutes and 59.986 seconds and Khaled Nagaway came third in four minutes and 59.481 seconds.

Thirty-four competitors, who took part in the one-day event, tried to break the two minutes and 2.42 seconds record scored by His Majesty King Hussein in his Mercedes 190e in 1989.

The Rumman Hill Climb took place 17 kilometres north of Amman on the Old Jerash Road. The course is exactly three kilometres long and the results are entered in the Jordan Drivers'

Open Championship.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, matni praised the organisers of the race and said: "I am very pleased to have participated in this event and I will not hesitate to take part in future events here."

Yassir Kounok, a leading Jordanian driver, was disqualified in his second attempt for not wearing his helmet, while another Jordanian driver, Khaled Zakaria, driving a Porsche 911, withdrew in the second attempt because of a flat tyre.

The only female competitor in the hill climb, Randa Nabulsi, driving a Toyota Corolla GT recorded a time of five minutes and 13 seconds.

The Jordanian driver, Tony Al Khilasy, scored a remarkable time of 5 minutes and 55 seconds in his Autobianchi Abarth — Not a bad result compared to the other more powerful cars.

The Rumman Hill Climb was sponsored by Silk Cut and organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan.

Iraq, Moldova advance to 2nd round of Jordan International Championship

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraq and Moldova qualified for the second round of the First Jordan International Soccer Championship after winning their matches Thursday.

Iraq now has four points after defeating Congo 3-0 in its Group 2 match played at Al Hassan Sports City. Two of Iraq's goals were scored by its top forward Ahmad Radhi, while the third was scored by Naem Saddam. In its first match in the cham-

pionship, Iraq crushed Ethiopia 13-0.

Moldova, the other qualifier, defeated Sudan 2-1 in a match played at Al Hassan Youth City Stadium in Amman and thus headed Group 1 teams with four points and played only once.

In the other Group 2 match played Thursday at Al Hassan Stadium in Irbid, Algerian Wifaq Steif beat Ethiopia 3-2, scoring its first win in the championship.

McEnroe beats Guardiola in Volvo International

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — John McEnroe attacked the net — and a television camera — to survive a challenge by Thierry Guardiola as tennis again took centre court at the Volvo International.

McEnroe, who was at his ranting and raving best — or worst as he describes it, during his 3-hour, 12-minute match as he beat Guardiola 6-7 (6-8), 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) to advance to the third round. He said it was incidents such as pushing over the ESPN camera have made him look at tennis differently.

"Because of you can't channel your energies in a more positive way and enjoy it, it's just kind of ridiculous to go out there and put myself in a position where I end up doing something stupid," he said.

"It's just not necessary, I don't need it and tennis doesn't need it."

"This could be like an unbelievable joy ride, and sometimes I make it more difficult for myself. It doesn't really have to be that way."

McEnroe said that after hitting the ball into the net he meant to simply push the camera up, not tip it over. He apologised to the cameraman two sets later.

ATP supervisor Mark Darby reviewed the incident and fined McEnroe \$3,000.

Stefan Edberg, Ivan Lendl, Michael Chang and Goran Ivanisevic also earned victories as for the first time since qualifying began Saturday there were no problems — no rain, no courts being torn up and no furious fans looking to get their money back.

Defending champion Peter Korda advanced when Arnaud Boetsch withdrew before the match with a shoulder injury.

McEnroe may have been a little too cocky at the start against Guardiola, ranked No. 131 in the world.

"Rather than thinking that because I'm John McEnroe I should be beating this guy 6-4, 6-4, 1 should have been playing point by point. And that's one of my biggest disappointments right now," he said.

Guardiola pressured McEnroe throughout with brilliant passing shots but had trouble returning McEnroe's serve.

The TV camera incident occurred during the first-set tiebreaker. With McEnroe up 5-4, he hit Guardiola's passing shot into the net.

"I pushed it up. I had missed a shot. It was my frustration," he said.

Most in the crowd, which had been solidly behind McEnroe, booed loudly. Many stood and cheered when Guardiola's passing shot won the set.

Throughout the rest of the match the fans booed McEnroe at times and cheered him at others as they couldn't seem to decide now they should react.

McEnroe said he hopes some of the fans at the match will remember the tennis and not just the TV camera incident.

"I hope it doesn't take away from how well both of us played in the match because I felt it was a great match," he said.

Arsenal prepares for tough time at Anfield

LONDON (R) — Liverpool players might be well advised to invest in some extra-thick shin pads for their Premier League soccer clash with Arsenal Sunday.

Arsenal, the early title favourites, have yet to score a point after losing their opening two matches and manager George Graham has told his players to toughen up.

The North Londoners lost 4-2 to unfancied Norwich, who scored all their goals in the second half, on the first weekend and then 1-0 at newly-promoted Blackburn Tuesday.

"We've got to put the physical side of our game back in place even if it means sacrificing some of the attractive football we want to play," Graham said at Black-

burn.

The Scot was particularly upset by his team's lack of aggression when Blackburn striker Alan Shearer muscled past two defenders before scoring in the 85th minute.

Anfield has never been the ideal place to seek the first win of the season but Arsenal have won there before and have a severe case of injured pride to soothe.

After being installed as 2-1 favourites at the start of the season, Arsenal have had their odds against relegation halved to 50-1 by London bookmakers after just one week.

Norwich, who lead the table after two matches, have set newly-signed striker Mark Robins a goal target as they prepare for a tough home match

against Everton.

Robins has scored half Norwich's tally of six goals and manager Mike Walker was not surprised. "I'll be disappointed if he doesn't pass the 21-mark this season," he said.

Coventry, the only other team in the Premier League with a 100 per cent record, travel to Wimbledon for what will be an emotional experience for manager Bobby Gould.

"There will be a lump in my throat when I go down there," said Gould, who was manager of the unfashionable London club when they won the F.A. Cup four years ago.

Current Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear has little time for such sentiment after watching his team lose both their opening

matches, at Leeds and at home to Ipswich.

Manchester United, like Arsenal chasing their first points of the season, have a worry over midfielder Paul Ince for their home match against newly-promoted Ipswich.

Ince picked up a hip injury in the opening game at Sheffield United and is extremely doubtful while England international Paul Parker is still out with a knee injury.

Tottenham Hotspur have yet to score a goal this season but hope to rectify that at home to Crystal Palace.

Eager defender Jason Cundy hopes to turn out for Spurs despite having six stitches in a head wound sustained in the mid-week defeat against Coventry.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Halifax faces hard times

HALIFAX, England (AP) — These are tough times for English third division soccer club Halifax — it can't even afford to buy pet food for the club cat. "To be honest, the light at the end of the tunnel is out and I am sure I can hear an express train coming," Halifax manager John McGrath wrote to potential sponsors. "I received a letter last week from Readers Digest informing me that I had not been included in their lucky draw," McGrath added.

"As a result, I am going to have to listen to offers for all my players, including the club cat Benny." Benny was less than pleased with the club's fortunes, wrote McGrath, as even the local mice had died of starvation. But Benny software company in Halifax offered Friday to supply enough catfood to last Benny the season.

Private jet for Danish goalkeeper

LONDON (R) — Manchester United are to fly goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel to Riga by private jet next week to enable him to play in Denmark's World Cup qualifier with Latvia. United faced Southampton Monday night and the European champions play 48 hours later. United desperately need Schmeichel with reserve keeper Gary Walsh still recovering from illness and third choice Mark Wilkinson having a broken wrist. United manager Alex Ferguson said: "We are indebted to Denmark's coach Richard Moeller-Nielsen. It will be expensive hiring a jet but it will be worth it." Moeller-Nielsen said: "We are happy to co-operate if United can get Peter to us straight after their game." Arsenal midfielder John Jensen, who scored one of his country's two goals which beat Germany in the European championship final in June, is joining the Danish squad after the game at Anfield against Liverpool Sunday.

Top 4 promoters to start elite series

ZURICH (R) — Zurich, Berlin, Brussels and Oslo will form an elite athletics series next year in which the winners will collect a kilo of gold and all athletes will be subject to blood testing. The series, which will be known as the "golden four," will be financed by the sale of world-wide television rights. It will initially run for five years starting in 1993. The "golden four" meetings will remain part of the present International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Grand Prix circuit. Zurich organiser Res Bruegger told a news conference before the meeting that the series was a response to the IAAF's sale of television rights for the biennial World Championships. "The IAAF has sold for \$91 million the television rights," he said. "There's not much money left." One significant innovation will be the introduction of blood testing in an effort to stamp out drug abuse.

Last sponsor abandons Krabbe

BERLIN (R) — Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe, who admitted this month to taking a banned stimulant, lost her last sponsor Friday. German hairspray maker Goldwell Ag said it would not follow sportswear maker Nike or fashion house Geary Neber in cancelling its contract but would simply stop paying Krabbe until the deal expired at the end of 1993. "You don't get much support among the public for using a symbol like her any more," said Goldwell spokesman Peter Hering. Krabbe and team mate Grit Brener, star athletes in former east Germany, admitted to making the banned steroid clenbuterol which their trainer bought on the black market. The two athletes, who did not compete in the Barcelona Olympics, face a four year competition ban. The long legged, blonde Krabbe was a sponsor's dream and attracted millions of marks to her club in Neubrandenburg in economically depressed east Germany before the news broke.

Connors upsets Ferreira in U.S. Hardcourts Tournament

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Jim Connors did it again. Tennis' old man staved off an upstart youngster in the U.S. Hardcourts.

Connors upset fifth-seeded Wayne Ferreira 6-3, 6-2 in just over an hour to advance to a quarterfinal round for the second time in as many tournaments.

Two weeks before the U.S. Open and his 40th birthday, Connors is on a roll.

"I'd like to go out and play like that everyday for the rest of my life," said Connors, 19 years older than Ferreira.

In their third-round matches, top-seeded Jim Courier outlasted David Engel, a Swede ranked 164th in the world, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2; No. 2 Pete Sampras, the defending champion, took out Todd Witsken 6-4, 7-5; and No. 3 Boris Becker needed two hours to beat No. 13 David Wheaton 7-6 (9-7), 6-3.

Connors took control with a service break in the second game, then waited for Ferreira to make mistakes.

"I think he underestimated me. I think he went out there feeling maybe that he'd just be present and win," Connors said.

"Unfortunately that's the way I feel after being around for 20 years. That's not for him to think that way."

Ferreira said he just pressed too much, and Connors understood.

"It's a lot of pressure on the young guys to play me," he said. "Nobody wants to lose to an old man. That's a tough thing."

Connors lost in the quarterfinals at Los Angeles two weeks ago. He's ranked 37th in the world, and seeded 11th here.

Ferreira, a semifinalist at the Australian Open this year, is 12th in the world.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHAHAF
3 YAMANI JESSICA
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

A NEAT UNBLOCK

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ J 9 4
♥ A 7 6 4
♦ 6 5
♣ K 10 3 2

WEST EAST
♠ 8 6 5 3 2 ♠ A 10 7
♥ K Q ♥ 10 8 5 3
♦ Q 8 8 ♦ K J 10
♣ J 7 4 ♣ 9 8 8

SOUTH
♠ K Q
♥ J 9 2
♦ A 7 3 2
♣ A Q 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass Pass Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of spades. We are not happy with the direction bridge is taking. More and more artificial methods are being introduced, designed chiefly to interfere with the opponents rather than to get one's own side to the correct spot. Among the myriad are a variety of light opening bids made on hands as weak as six points.

For example, East's one-club opening bid on this hand from the recent European Championship promised 8-11 points and had nothing to do with clubs. It pushed North-South into a three no trump game they might not have reached

under their own steam, and which would have sailed home but for alert defense by East. South's one-no-trump overall showed the equivalent of a no-trump opening bid, and North might have been content with an invitational raise of two no trump.

West led a low spade to East's ace, and East returned the ten to declarer's king. Even if clubs divided evenly, declarer had only eight fast tricks, so the diamond suit seemed the most promising source to develop at least one trick. Therefore, declarer immediately led a low diamond.

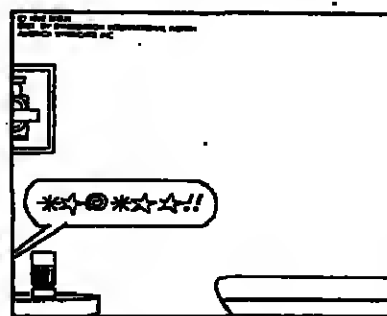
Let's see what might have happened had East taken this trick with the ten. Declarer would win the spade return on the table and lead a diamond. If East rises with the king, declarer makes the rest of the tricks. If, instead, East follows with the jack, declarer wins the ace and returns a diamond. East wins, but declarer again makes the rest.

East did not put declarer's technique to the test. The defender won the first diamond with the king! Now South could not establish the suit without allowing West to get in with the queen to cash two good spades for a one-trick set.

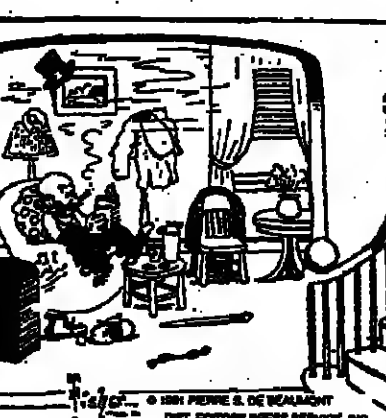
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today as the Sun enters Virgo you may have an opportunity to entertain and enjoy influential persons who may enjoy similar interests to yours. Establish your ground rules clearly...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Friends and acquaintances can be a disappointment now if you expect much of them so rely more upon your own initiative and resources for accomplishing.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep on a muted and low pitch if you have to be out in the world of action and you will be able to sidestep some potential danger lurking there.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You want to be off and away to some interesting new conditions but the time is not yet ripe and you would miss out where you have been placing effort.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think over the various agreements you have made and carry through with them in a meticulous fashion and you will sidestep some trouble.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A bizarre acting person can try to involve you in some plan of action that is not in your best interest so don't be taken in by glamour attached to it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You don't feel a bit like doing

those necessary chores and tasks today so postpone those that are not critical and do the others in a careful manner.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Entertainment and recreation appeal to you very much today but the price tag attached to them could be pretty high so use your discrimination.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Matters at your own residence can reach an impasse if you are in anyway demanding or go off on a tangent so maintain poise and encourage harmony.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about what you can do to ward off some criticism by a usual ally who is disgruntled and in any communications be very diplomatic.

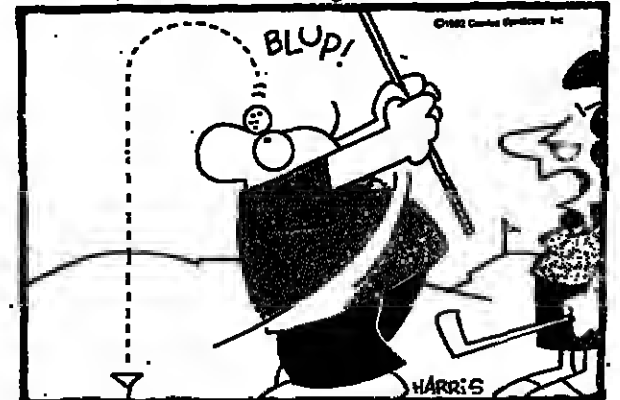
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You want to make some drastic changes to some practical or property interests but it is exactly the wrong time to do so for best results.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) The unconventional and original aspects of your character now are yearning for expression but you would be wise to stick to proven outlets.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want to bust out from under some condition that is worrying you but realize that by ignoring it, you find it will go away by itself.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Just love those exotic flavors

THAT CHEF WAS A MAN FOR ALL THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

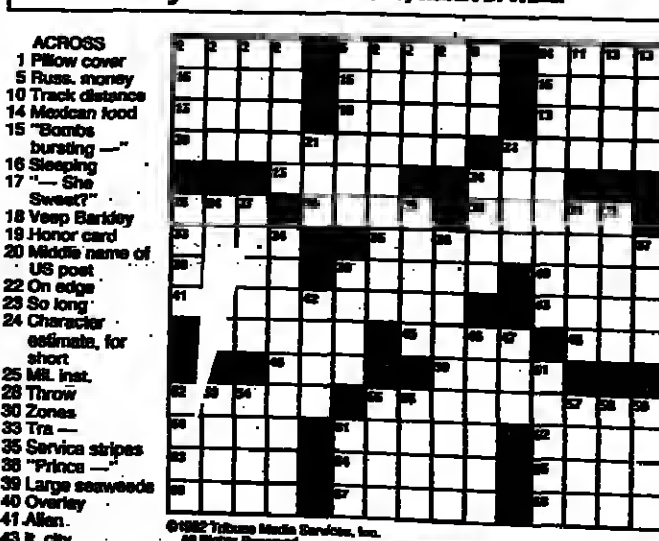
Answer here: "GNUST SESMY NOVCOY INBOAL"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RAVEN MADLY PUZZLE ASTRAY

Answer: That long-winded conversationalist was never interesting until he reached the point of DEPARTURE

THE Daily Crossword by Robert D. Wilder



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:

1. Party for men
2. Treasures
3. Skin problem
4. Scurvy
5. Theater district

6. Let go
7. as them
8. Really
9. Sea bird
10. Middle name of
11. Wedding bird
12. Church season
13. Name, city
14. "King"
15. Cole
16. Sentence
17. Cheese
18. Mixture
19. Boats
20. river
21. Indecent
22. Name, city
23. Came up
24. Middle name of
25. US poet
26. Not clear
27. Respiratory sound
28. Govt. agents
29. Egg layers
30. Funny Johnsons
31. Model school letters

42. Was god
43. Estimate value
44. Haul
45. Not clear
46. 52
47. Despair
48. 54
49. 55

50. 56
51. 57
52. 58
53. 59
54. 60
55. 61

Financial Markets

In cooperation with
Central Amman Bank

Currency	NEW YORK 10/14/92	TOKYO 10/14/92
Sterling Pound	1.9350	1.9347
Deutsche Mark	1.4555	1.4552
Swiss Franc	1.9355	1.9345
French Franc	4.9353	4.9353
Japanese Yen	126.40	126.37
European Currency Unit	1.3975	1.3985

Currency	1 UNIT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.25	5.57	5.50	5.56
Sterling Pound	9.81	10.78	10.78	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.81	9.41	9.41	9.75
Swiss Franc	8.00	4.25	4.37	8.25
French Franc	10.06	10.31	10.37	10.37
Japanese Yen	4.06	5.75	5.36	5.56
European Currency Unit	10.90	10.90	10.47	10.41

Currency	1 UNIT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	558.15	6.43	5.78	.081
Sterling Pound				
Deutsche Mark				
Swiss Franc				
French Franc				
Japanese Yen				
European Currency Unit				

Currency	1 UNIT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	0.668	0.670		
Sterling Pound	1.2905	1.2964		
Deutsche Mark	0.4585	0.4606		
Swiss Franc	0.3112	0.3158		
French Franc	0.7350	0.7357		
Japanese Yen	0.3247	0.3154		
Dutch Guilder	0.4064	0.4064		
Spanish Peseta	0.1254	0.1264		
Italian Lira	0.0605	0.0606		
Belgian Franc	0.02225	0.02236		

Currency	1 UNIT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	1.743	1.754		
U.S. Dollar	0.0245	0.0295		
Saudi Riyal	0.1769	0.1790		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3300	2.5200		
Qatari Riyal	0.1415	0.1423		
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100		
Ugandan Shilling	1.7850	1.7800		
UAE Dirham	0.1813	0.1825		
Israeli Sheqel	0.3625	0.3725		
Yemeni Rial	1.580	1.600		

Index	10/14/92	Close	10/14/92	Close
All Share	142.57	142.21		
Banking Sector	106.11	103.33		
Insurance Sector	148.69	148.89		
Industry Sector	195.02	195.23		
Services Sector	184.14	184.14		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.9365/75	U.S. dollars	1.9365/75
One U.S. dollar	1.1920/25	Canadian dollar	1.4900/10
	1.6340/50	Deutsche marks	1.2902/12
	29.88/92	Dutch guilders	5.9280/330
	1103/1104	Swiss francs	126.40/45
	5.2840/90	French francs	6.7230/80
	6.5975/6025	Italian lire	207.36/37
	336.00/336.50	Japanese yen	161.00/161.50
		Swedish crowns	13.75/13.80
		Norwegian crowns	13.75/13.80
		Danish crowns	13.75/13.80
		U.S. dollars	1.9365/75

Kuwait no longer living off its investments

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq's attempt to burn up Kuwait's oil resources failed but Baghdad unwittingly managed to wreck an even greater source of wealth by its occupation of the emirate — overseas investments.

The question is whether government planners will absorb this unpleasant fact and take steps to cut Kuwait's lavish standard of living, or spend the country into the ground.

"They've still got cash, as demonstrated by the fact they keep handing it out... but there's no evidence of a long-term strategy," said a Western diplomat.

By the time Iraq invaded in August 1990, economists say

Kuwait was earning as much money from money — in returns from an investment portfolio valued at up to \$100 billion — as from its enormous oil reserves.

But the Gulf war ate into Kuwait's capital assets. The emirate paid out some \$60 billion to cover allied war costs and support its own people.

Officials closely guard the value of Kuwait's lump portfolio, but diplomats and local economists estimate it may now have fallen to less than \$40 billion.

Bad debt problems have beset

Grupo Torras, a Spanish industrial holding company owned by the Kuwait Investment Office.

Economists estimated the net worth of Kuwait's investment in

Spain at \$7 billion before it ran into trouble.

And the sale of a 7.7 per cent stake in Britain's Midland Bank PLC in April prompted speculation that the government was already more cash-strapped than it would care to admit.

"We're back to oil," said economist Jassem Al-Saoudi of the Al-Saoudi consultancy group. "In two or three years, Kuwait could be in the normal trend of developing countries... in debt and reliant on a single, unpredictable commodity."

Over 90 per cent of state revenues in the 1992/93 budget come from oil. Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al-Rodhan said this month income from Kuwait's

overseas assets, which he declined to quantify, was not included in budget figures.

The government channelled \$14 billion to its citizens in back pay and free services after the war, and is still to pay out on its biggest commitment. In May it promised to buy over \$20 billion worth of debt off stagnating local banks to put them and the debtors on their feet again.

Loss of investment income not only means less revenue to support the free services and well-paid employment Kuwaitis have come to expect, it also means much more uncertainty.

Oil prices could plummet if Iraq, currently banned from selling crude under U.N. sanctions,

comes back on to the market, and underexploited fields like those in the former Soviet republics are commercially developed.

The government could still borrow under a 10 billion dinar (\$3.7 billion) limit set by the Emir last year. But Kuwaiti investment officials are reluctant to go back to international markets after banks were slow to respond to Kuwait's \$5.5 billion Euroloan offer last year.

Observers of the local political scene say some officials are concerned at Kuwait's permanently altered balance of payments and are convinced something ought to be done.

But they have so far made little headway against the political pressure to keep providing.

"We obviously can't go back to the way we lived before," a senior government official said. "We need to make cuts but every area of spending is also considered vital."

But signs have emerged recently that the hand-outs are drying up. Last month, the government turned down a plan presented by the National Council which would have offered each Kuwaiti family a further 5,000 dinars (\$17,860) compensation for the effects of the Gulf war.

Faced with calls to relieve citizens of debts for cars bought before the war on the grounds that many had been stolen by the Iraqis during the occupation, it hedged, saying the debts could be rescheduled but not forgiven.

Brazil quietly buries failed economic experiment

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — One of the most bizarre experiments in modern economic history has ended quietly — and economists judged it a resounding failure.

President Fernando Collor de Mello astonished Brazil when, the day after taking office in March 1990, he froze most of the country's liquid assets overnight in a once-and-for-all effort to beat inflation.

Everyone with bank deposits worth more than \$1,250 was told that the government had "borrowed" their money and would not give it back for 18 months. The central bank estimates that \$45.7 billion was sucked out of the economy at a stroke.

The "Collor plan" left citizens

penniless, threw the economy into chaos, drove companies crazy and helped cause one of the worst recessions ever in this vast country with the southern hemisphere's largest economy.

It also failed to kill inflation. And as the government paid back the final installment of the blocked money last Monday, no one was celebrating.

Prices were rising by 84 per cent a month when Mr. Collor took over in 1990 from his floundering predecessor Jose Sarney. Noting that 1989 inflation had topped 1,700 per cent, the country's new leader promised to "slay the tiger of inflation with a single bullet."

But after an initial dip to 3.3 per cent a month, inflation quick-

ly bounced back. Part of the problem with the drastic plan was that wily Brazilians were able to exploit legal and not so legal ways to unlock their money, recovering \$22.6 billion — nearly half the total — within a few months.

Only nine months after the asset freeze, the government was forced into declaring a price freeze. Four months after that, the economy minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello, the architect of the drastic anti-inflation plan, was forced to resign.

Today, inflation is running close to 25 per cent a month and economists see no prospect of it dropping any time soon.

The Getulio Vargas Foundation, an economic research institute, says prices have risen by 14,221 per cent since Mr. Collor's plan was launched — bad news for Brazilians whose blocked money rose in value by only 7,218 per cent.

The new cruzeiro currency, introduced alongside the plan, has withered, too. Days after the anti-inflation plan was launched, 30 cruzeiros were enough to buy a dollar. These days, dealers in Rio want 5,200.

"The government said this plan would end inflation in Brazil," former central bank president Afonso Celso Pastore told Reuters. "The results are there for everyone to see. Need I say more?"

"Experiments in economics should be confined to theoretical models, not tried out on society," he added, "...there's no reason to believe that this plan could ever have worked."

But former economy minister Cardoso had no regrets. If necessary, he told O Globo newspaper, she would confiscate the money all over again.

Denmark tries to lure foreign investors through lower tax

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The government announced Thursday it was cutting by more than half the maximum income tax rate for highly-paid temporary residents in order to attract foreign investments.

The ministry of taxation said the maximum income tax rate had been lowered from 68 per cent to 30 per cent, retroactive to June 1, 1991. The tax cut has

been approved by parliament.

In order to qualify for the lower rate, foreigners employed by Danish companies must receive a minimum monthly salary of 36,700 kroner (\$6,330), said Thor Karup of the ministry's international section.

The foreigners must also remain in the country at least six months but not more than three years, Mr. Karup said.

Foreign scientists engaged in approved research projects in Denmark will be eligible for the 30 per cent rate even if they earn less than 36,700 kroner.

Mr. Karup said that under previous tax rules, the cost of paying foreign experts net salaries equivalent to what they had received in their home countries had been "astronomical" for employers.

Black market burgeons in Serbia

BELGRADE (R) — The black market is burgeoning in Belgrade, two and a half months after the United Nations imposed sanctions on the Serb-led ramp Yugoslavia federation for its role in the region's ethnic war.

Nowadays if you want a smoke you have to move out of the shops and onto the streets, where hawkers will happily sell any brand you want — at twice or three times the retail price.

Young men lurking on street corners have not only cornered the market in cigarettes, they are also the country's only reliable hard currency dealers.

With petrol rationing in force, there are tidy profits to be made selling government-distributed coupons in the ever-lengthening lines at filling stations.

And, as the ooze of sanctions tightens around the economies of Serbia and its tiny neighbour Montenegro, anybody who finds a way of smuggling scarce goods into the republics can count on raking in serious money.

"A lot of people are growing rich on other people's misery," said Danko Djunic, head of a private economic consultancy in Belgrade.

Or as one currency trader put it: "Whenever the crisis deepens,

we benefit."

Dealers say they can make in a week on the street what they would earn in a month in a factory job. And that's when business is slack.

The crazy economics of war and international isolation are hitting Serbia just as it was beginning to break with four decades of communist centralism and establish a market system.

For now the atmosphere is remarkably relaxed — the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina seems far away and many Belgraders are spending their summer days sunning themselves on the banks of the Danube or on the Montenegrin coast.

Some small grocery stores have stopped stocking such staples as flour, cooking oil and sugar which are subject to government price controls — not because they are scarce but because there is no profit to be made on them.

But generally the capital's cafes are full, the fruit and vegetable markets are buzzing and shops are still working their way through stocks of foreign and luxury goods.

The arrival of the black marketeers, however, signals more sinister times ahead. Prices are doubling every month, shopkeepers fear an imminent plunge in business, many wages have been

capped or frozen and unemployment is expected to spiral once the summer holidays are over.

Economists are forecasting total collapse, even civil war, as deprivation and impoverishment stoke up potent ethnic and civil tensions.

Serbia has already turned into a cash society: People carry around large wads of dinar notes whose values go down four or five per cent each day. Above all, hard currency is king.

"If you've got the money, you can get the petrol," explained a private businessman brandishing tokens far exceeding his 20 litre (3.5 gallon) monthly quota at a gas station queue snaking round several street corners.

This week the going rate for extra coupons was 250 dinars (about 60 cents) per litre. Normally you have to wait in line for anything between one and four hours to fill up. But if you know where to go and you have German marks in your pocket, you don't need coupons and you don't need to wait.

The black marketeers have an even tighter grip on cigarettes — the most basic form of currency in any war. Hawkers on the streets of Belgrade said a well-organised scam had ensured their sudden disappearance from the shops.

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Consists of two floors. The ground floor is a separate apartment which consists of a master bedroom, two bedrooms with a bathroom, spacious kitchen, dining and salon, 100-square metre room for children to play. The first floor consists of spacious salons decorated with Italian marble and a dining room; shutters are electric. Guests' bathroom, very large kitchen with maid room, bathroom and a services room inside the kitchen. There are also two master bedrooms, with a small changing room and bathrooms, and two bedrooms with a bathroom as well as a living room with a large veranda, two garages that can accommodate eight cars and large garden. Land area is 1,085 sq.m. and building area is 730 sq.m. Location: In Mecca Street, midway opposite the Bahraini Ambassador's residence. Annual rent is JD 30,000, preferable pay for two or three years in advance.

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- 250m² roof, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large salon and dining room, deluxe kitchen and large terraces with beautiful view. Location: 250m from the new U.S. Embassy.
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The International Community School is seeking to appoint a part-time teacher of French language for pupils aged between 7 & 11 years for the coming academic year. Anyone interested in applying for this position please telephone the School for more details and an appointment. Telephone: 841070 Fax: 847109



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Cinema Tel: 634144

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Nabil and Hisham

(former Rainbow cinema)

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Shelling blacks out Sarajevo

4 killed in mortar fire

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Four people were killed and 23 wounded when mortar bombs hit central Sarajevo Friday morning, hospital sources said.

Five mortar bombs fell on the area between the Bosnian government building — which was set ablaze in fierce fighting Thursday — and the Bosnian capital's main market.

The city was hit by a power blackout and bread shortage on Friday after a day of heavy grenade and mortar fire combined with fierce Muslim-Serb street fighting.

Buildings damaged by shelling, apparently from Serb gun batteries in retaliation for Muslim sniping, included the barracks used by United Nations peacekeeping forces, the Kosovo Hospital and the Bosnian government building.

The bombardment began Thursday night and street clashes between Muslim and Serb fighters were reported in the suburbs. It was the heaviest sustained bombardment to a month — two dozen rocket-propelled grenades exploded within half an hour.

Fires burned throughout the city, police said. But by Friday morning the battle had subsided. No casualty toll was immediately available.

Journalists said 99 per cent of Sarajevo's power supplies were cut. Flour for bread had been running out for weeks.

At least 18,500 people are known to have been killed in ethnic fighting sparked by the collapse of Yugoslavia a year ago and independence moves by most of its republics.

The real toll is believed to be much higher.

More than 8,000 have been killed and close to two million displaced to four months of con-

flict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims and Croats are battling Serb forces opposed to the republic's independence.

The U.N. Protection Force For Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) said mortar bombs hit the Marshal Tito Barracks west of the Holiday Inn hotel. No casualties were reported among Ukrainian peacekeeping troops there.

But UNPROFOR said eight of its trucks were damaged and the roof of the barracks was set ablaze. An interpreter at the barracks said U.N. forces refused to allow local firefighting services into the compound.

UNPROFOR said there were no plans to evacuate the barracks, a sprawling complex near the city's bus and railway stations.

U.N. sources also said a U.N. escorted civilian truck was "stolen" Thursday by unidentified irregular forces while carrying relief supplies to the besieged city of Tuzla.

The flare-up further dimmed hopes for a breakthrough at an international conference on Yugoslavia in London next week.

The warring sides are approaching the London talks with different priorities.

Bosnia wants help to stop the conflict. Rump Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro — wants to avoid being put on trial by the international community as the main aggressor and perpetrator of atrocities.

In Geneva, a U.N. spokesman said former Polish Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki flew to the Croatian capital Zagreb Friday to investigate human rights violations to what was Yugoslavia.

Senior diplomats and military officers from the United States, Britain, France and Russia held meetings with U.N. officials in

New York Thursday on ways of implementing a resolution which authorises the use of force to ensure delivery of humanitarian supplies to Bosnia.

Britain, France and Italy have all promised to commit ground troops to protect humanitarian convoys in the area.

But German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe, in an interview published in Paris, said Bonn could not send troops because of memories of World War II, when Croatia was allied with the Nazis and slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Serbs.

A sniper killed a Ukrainian soldier Thursday, the second Ukrainian to die in Sarajevo in four months of violence there.

Relief flights into Sarajevo Airport have resumed after a halt caused by a threat to aircraft from nearby gunners. The flights bring food and medicine to 380,000 trapped residents.

Reuters correspondent Andrej Gustinic reported from north Bosnian mountains Thursday that thousands of Muslims were still being deported from their homes by Serb rebels.

Mr. Gustinic accompanied 1,500 expelled Muslims from the town of Sanski Most, trudging through pools of blood and over chunks of human flesh as a battle raged nearby in the mountains.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said the Republic of Macedonia was preparing a law to expel non-Macedonians with less than 15 years of residence.

This could spark another big population movement in former Yugoslavia, this time affecting mainly ethnic Albanians.

Bulgaria took steps Friday to limit private car journeys into neighbouring Yugoslavia to try to halt petrol smuggling.

Private cars can be used for trips to Serbia and Montenegro now only once every 15 days.

Greece Friday suspended all fuel exports through its northern border, to silence critics who claimed that it was breaking the U.N. embargo on Serbia and Montenegro.

"To put an end to the unjustified accusations against our country, which it cannot accept under any circumstances, we decided that from today we are suspending temporarily the passage of petroleum products to the north," Premier Constantine Mitsotakis said after a cabinet meeting.

He said that supplies to the former Yugoslav Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia, and countries north of them, would resume only after the European Community found a way to monitor the embargo.

"We will participate in this effort, so that in future, with safety and without giving anyone the right to accuse us, we will reopen the passage of fuel products to the north," Mr. Mitsotakis said.

Meanwhile the foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina says he has a pledge of help from Saudi Arabia and U.S. assurances that it was opposed to the "cantoning" of his country into three ethnic units.

A weary-looking Haris Siladzic flew into this Republican convocation city Wednesday after meeting acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger in Washington to drum up support for his embattled country.

He met Saudi Arabia's U.S. ambassador, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, who told him that King Fahd has personally contacted President George Bush on Bosnia's behalf.

Russia pays muted tribute to coup victims

MOSCOW (R) — Russia paid a muted tribute Friday to three young men killed a year ago defending Boris Yeltsin's White House parliament against a Communist coup.

They were saviours of democracy, acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar said.

About 2,000 to 3,000 people, including some who manned last year's barricades, cheered speeches by political leaders outside the marble parliament by the Moscow River Thursday evening.

As midnight approached, they walked bearing candles to a nearby underpass on the city's inner ring road where the bloodiest scene of the abortive three-day coup took place.

Ilya Krichevsky, Dmitry Komar and Vladimir Usov died in a clash with a tank unit early on Aug. 21, 1991. They were buried two days later at Vaganokovo cemetery in central Moscow.

At the cemetery Friday, top Russian officials, including Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Mr. Gaidar, inaugurated a memorial to the three men.

"Nobody knows what the putschist forces would do if the blood of the three young men had not been spilt," Mr. Rutskoi said in an oration by the graves.

The memorial consists of a monument of a young man crucified on metal bars tied together in an anti-tank device.

"The boys have saved democracy in Russia," Mr. Gaidar said. "More than that, they have saved the world from the catastrophe the plotters were pushing it to."

Only about 200 people attended the ceremony. Most Russians seemed too concerned with high inflation, economic chaos and uncertainty about the future to celebrate or even mourn.

"It is a great pity few came to give tribute to the boys who died for them. But don't blame people suffering through serious hardships of today's crisis," said Vera Vasilevich, who took part in last year's White House defence.

The three men were killed after a unit of light tanks passing round the ring-road, 200 metres from the parliament, ran into a blockade of buses and became trapped.

The young soldiers manning the tanks found themselves surrounded by Yeltsin supporters and panicked.

In the ensuing melee, Krichevsky was shot in the head and Komar and Usov were crushed by the tanks.

There was no assault on the White House. But outrage at the deaths — another man was killed by troops in Latvia — hastened the end of the coup.

The same day the eight-man emergency committee which had staged the putsch, detaining Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, freed him and abandoned its bid to seize power.

Pretoria, ANC to meet on reviving democracy talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Government and African National Congress (ANC) negotiators agreed to meet Friday in a bid to revive stalled talks on an all-race South African democracy, officials said.

Officials from both sides said ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa and Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer would meet at a secret venue later in the day.

"Discussions will focus on identification of steps to be taken to address the issues raised in earlier memoranda exchanged between the government and the ANC," the two sides said in identical statements.

"They will meet with a view to the removal of obstacles towards the resumption of negotiations," ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said.

He declined to say who took the initiative or what the agenda would include.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela

quit multi-party talks on a multi-racial constitution after the Boipatong June 17 massacre of at least 43 blacks, accusing the white minority government of complicity in township violence and clinging to power.

The ANC insists on 14 conditions for a resumption of talks, including a government commitment to majority rule and concrete steps to quell township violence that has killed nearly 3,000 blacks this year.

Mr. Niehaus and government spokesman Izak Retief said Friday's talks were not a result of President F.W. de Klerk's statement Thursday that he would press on with the multi-party talks which began in December with or without the ANC.

Mr. de Klerk said he would meet a number of parties in the first half of September to map out common ground, particularly on proposals for strong regional government under a new constitution.

Topless Fergie photos embarrass queen

LONDON (R) — The scandal facing the British royal family deepened Friday when newspapers published even more revealing pictures of the Duchess of York and her American financial adviser caving in a swimming pool.

The Sun, which had initially been upstaged by its rival the Daily Mirror in the race for the "Fergie pictures," went a step further by printing a clearly topless picture of the duchess with Texan millionaire John Bryan in the French Riviera.

Under the headline "Fergie's final boob," the Sun said it had obtained "the most sensational picture of a royal ever taken."

The Mirror followed up with more pictures taken during Fergie's St Tropez holiday, showing her riding on Bryan's shoulders in the pool and being kissed, caressed and massaged on a sunbed.

In one picture, Bryan is shown kissing the back of Fergie's neck watched by daughters Beatrice and Eugenie, who are Queen Elizabeth's grandchildren.

The queen and Fergie's estranged husband Prince Andrew threw their weight behind a statement deploring publication of the pictures.

Buckingham Palace said: "We strongly disapprove of the publication of photographs taken in such circumstances."

The photographs prompted immediate calls for the duchess to be stripped of her title. In a front-page editorial, the Daily Star said: "The British people are fed up with the antics of Fergie."

The pictures appeared as most of the royal family, including Prince Andrew and the red-haired duchess, were taking a holiday at the queen's Scottish castle, Balmoral.



Duchess of York

Newspapers printed pictures of the queen, wearing a headscarf and a grim expression, riding her horse alone in the estate grounds.

The Mirror said Bryan, 37, reacted to publication of the pictures by immediately telephoning Fergie, 32, at Balmoral for "an anguished chat."

The Daily Express said the balding Bryan, who had earlier portrayed himself solely as the duchess's financial adviser, had been "romantically involved" with Fergie for the past 10 months, according to royal insiders.

The rival Daily Mail, however, forecast that as the impact of the St. Tropez pictures sank in, the couple's "close friendship" appeared to be doomed.

Bryan, attempting to ignore the attentions of the press, left his flat in the fashionable Chelsea district Thursday evening to eat with friends at a nearby restaurant.

The publication of the photographs reopened debates on whether the public purse should fund all members of the royal family and whether Britain should enact press privacy laws.

The Times said: "The best defence the duchess and the rest of the royal family can throw up against intrusion is to show greater discretion in their private behaviour."

Elvis lives — in Bush speech

HOUSTON (AP) — Elvis lives — at least in George Bush's lingo. The president invoked the name of the late rock 'n' roll king as a cudgel against rival Bill Clinton.

Mr. Bush accused his Democratic foe of waffling on whether he favours a balanced-budget amendment. "He's like that on a lot of issues, first one side, then the other. He's been spotted in more places than Elvis Presley," Mr. Bush said to boos and cheers from the convention crowd. Then he suggested a new name for Clinton's economic plan: "Elvis economics." "America will be checking into the Heartbreak Hotel," Mr. Bush explained. Mr. Clinton, a big Presley fan, has been dubbed, "Elvis" by reporters covering his race for the White House.

Sting weds girlfriend

LONDON (R) — British rock star Sting, former lead singer of the Police, married his long-time girlfriend Trudie Styler. Sting kissed actress and television producer Styler after a simple ceremony at a London register office. His only comment was: "Bye, bye. Thank you." Asked why it had taken them 10 years to get married, his bride just smiled and shook her head. Sting's tour manager William Francis said: "He didn't want to rush things." The marriage will be blessed Saturday at a bigger occasion in a west of England church. Former teacher Sting, whose real name is Gordon Sumner, now campaigns to save the Amazon rain forest. He was dressed in a black T-shirt and beige jacket. Styler wore a black dress with a white collar and black gaiter gloves. Sting, 40, and Styler, 35, have three children — Mickey, eight, Jake seven, and Coco, two. It is her first marriage and his second. He is divorced from Irish actress Frances Tomelty, by whom he has two children, Joe, 14, and Kate, nine.

Intrepid Belgians hang glide half way across Europe

BRUSSELS (R) — Like those magnificent men in their flimsy flying machines in the early days of motorised flight, two intrepid Belgian amateur pilots have flown halfway across Europe in a motorized hang-glider. Luc Lefevre and Carl Remontant said in a telefax received in Brussels from Lvov Airport in the Ukraine that they had made the 1,400-km flight from Namur in southern Belgium between Aug. 14 and 19. The telefax, which included a message from the chief of Lvov airport confirming the two men's arrival, said the pair had flown over Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland on their way — a route and a destination impossible only three years ago.

Luxembourg family takes holiday in their own cellar

LUXEMBOURG (R) — A Luxembourg family looked themselves in their own cellar for two weeks to avoid the shame of their neighbours finding out they could not afford to go away for their annual holiday, local journalists said. The unnamed family told their neighbours they were heading south to the sun for their annual holiday, locked up the house, hid the car in the garage and then spent the next fortnight camping in their damp cellar. The family of four, including two children aged nine and seven, might have got away with the ruse if police had not spotted light through a chink in the shutters and burst in thinking it might be burglars. Police in the town of Steinfort near the Belgian border, where the journalists said the family lived, refused to comment.

China police shave dozens as punishment

PEKING (R) — Dozens of labourers in China's Guangdong province have protested to officials after police shaved their heads and clipped off their eyebrows to punish them for not having work permits, an official newspaper said. "We are far from home and penniless. Now all our hair and eyebrows have been cut off. What can we do?" one worker was quoted as saying by the Yangcheng Evening News. The newspaper said the men, who were in the booming southern province looking for work, were stopped by police on July 28 and told to show their work and residence permits. Most had none. Chinese need official permission to change their job or place of residence. The police first used the scissors to clip a "road on the workers' heads."

Khmer Rouge suspected of killing Vietnamese

PHNOM PENH (R) — U.N. investigators probing last month's massacre of two ethnic Vietnamese families in southern Cambodia suspect Khmer Rouge guerrillas were responsible, a U.N. spokesman said.

Eight people were killed in the unprovoked night-time attack on July 21 in Tuk Meas hamlet in Kampot Province, 25 kilometres west of the Vietnam-Cambodian border.

"Much circumstantial evidence exists which suggests the attack was conducted by personnel belonging to the NADK (Khmer Rouge)," said a spokesman from the U.N. peacekeeping operation, quoting an official police report into the murders.

U.N. police and those of the Vietnamese-istalled Phnom Penh government were continuing the investigation and would not close the case until all the culprits were identified and brought to justice, he added.

The attack was carried out by about 30 armed and uniformed men who entered the village from the west and split into three groups to attack two ethnic Vietnamese families, he said.

"One family — consisting of a mother, father and infant child — was murdered in their home," the spokesman said.

"Nearby, another village family was attacked resulting in the deaths of four children, ages one to 15 years old, and their uncle and an injury to a fifth child."

After the murders, the attackers plundered five nearby houses before escaping, the spokesman said.

His report on the investigation differs substantially from earlier U.N. findings which suggested government soldiers based close to the village were responsible.

"According to the interim report it was not (government forces). It may have been uncontrolled elements and we have not ruled that out," the spokesman said.

"The conclusions were reached after several weeks of interviews and investigation."

The three opposition factions, especially the Khmer Rouge, have fanned Cambodians' latent racial prejudice towards Vietnamese in their political propaganda campaign.

The Khmer Rouge claims that more than two million Vietnamese are living in Cambodia and bent on "swallowing" the country.

In an interview published last week in the Far Eastern Economic Review, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan threatened more violence against ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia unless U.N. peacekeepers expel them.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin 'tricked' coup leaders

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin compared his victory in last August's attempted coup with a chess game in which he outwitted KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov. "The whole game I played out with him. I had to outwit him. If I outwitted him, I knew the game would be mine," he told a news conference on the first anniversary of the failure of the hardline takeover. Mr. Yeltsin ruled out a second coup. "I have always said, and I say now, that there is no chance of a second coup," he said. He said he persuaded Mr. Kryuchkov from his White House stronghold by telephone that the KGB leader, one of the eight-man emergency committee which seized power on Aug. 18, should fly to Mikhail Gorbachev at the Crimean holiday villa where the Soviet president was held captive. "I told them I was ready to go with them. It was a kind of chess move and they bought it. They, the fools, the whole team (emergency committee), went with him," he said. Mr. Kryuchkov, described by Yeltsin as the ringleader, and other plotters were arrested when they arrived at the Foros Villa and the coup collapsed on its fourth day.

S. Korea, China to establish ties

SEOUL (R) — South Korea and China will bury 40 years of cold war hostility by establishing diplomatic relations within days, diplomats and news reports said Friday. "All the paperwork is ready and the only thing left is the signing of the accord on the 24th (of August)," state radio quoted a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official as saying. Diplomatic sources said the only remaining doubt was the date for the signing. Seoul regards the establishing of formal ties with Peking as a key to eventual détente with North Korea. The radio said Foreign Minister Lee Sang-ock would leave for Peking Sunday for a three-day visit, during which he would sign the protocol to achieve a longstanding South Korean ambition.

Police teargas pickets in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Police have fired teargas and used truncheons on pickets during a 12-hour opposition-led strike in Bangladesh called to protest against the shooting of an opposition member of parliament. Clashes erupted when police shoved off a group of activists trying to set fire to a government bus plying in central Dhaka in defiance of the strike call, a police official said. In another incident in downtown area, police fired tear gas on pickets who horded fire-hose. "I then, he said, "Barring those stray incidents, the strike is peaceful so far," the official told reporters. Shops, bank offices and factories across the country stayed shut and streets in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi were empty during the 12-hour shutdown, officials said. Trading was halted and domestic flights faced long delays. The strike also paralysed the country's two ports. Chittagong and Mangla, they said.

Collor insists he will not resign

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A top Brazilian newspaper has reported that President Fernando Collor De Mello's cabinet may soon ask him to resign, but Mr. Collor insisted he would not step down. "The president will not resign," a spokesman said. "The government is working normally." He said the Collor administration would not and could not be stopped by the deliberations of a congressional commission investigating corruption charges. Congressional investigators have heard testimony apparently linking Mr. Collor to a multi-million dollar extortion racket allegedly organised by his former election campaign treasurer, Paulo Cesar Farias. Both Mr. Collor and Mr. Farias have denied any wrongdoing. Respected political commentator Carlos Castello Branco wrote in the Jornal Do Brasil newspaper that Mr. Collor's cabinet was likely to ask the president to go, possibly next week after the commission releases its report. Mr. Castello Branco said the country had come to a halt as it awaited a solution to the crisis.

3 hurt in Azerbaijan blast

MOSCOW (R) — Three soldiers were hurt by flying glass after an ammunition dump blew up near the Azerbaijan capital Baku, rocking the suburbs in a series of powerful blasts, ITAR-TASS News agency said Friday. The explosion, at warehouses belonging to the Azeri Armed Forces, took place Thursday night in the small suburban town of Gyuzdek, which has been evacuated. Its cause was not known. The fire sparked by the explosion was still burning Friday, TASS said, quoting the local Azeriarm News Agency. Earlier this year, spectacular blasts caused billions of roubles' worth of damage at ammunition dumps belonging to the former Soviet Armed Forces in the Far East and in Armenia.

Pakistan hails 'forward movement' with India

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan welcomed a "forward movement" in relations with arch-enemy India and said a solution to their problems could lead to harmonious ties.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju told parliament that Pakistan would continue to seek a negotiated settlement on all outstanding issues with India, particularly disputed Kashmir's state.

"We welcome the forward movement in our relations," Mr. Kanju said, commenting on two agreements signed in New Delhi on banning chemical weapons and a code of conduct on treating diplomats.

The minister was opening a foreign policy debate in the Senate (upper house) a day after senior officials of the two sides ended talks in New Delhi on an unusually upbeat note.

Farrow tells daughter to choose: 'Allen or me' — report

NEW YORK (R) — Actress Mia Farrow held a tearful family meeting with her children after learning an adopted daughter was sleeping with her companion Woody Allen and asked the daughter to choose between the family and Allen, the New York Post reported Thursday.

The daughter, Soon-Yi Previn, the actress's eldest adopted child, chose the filmmaker, according to the copyrighted Post story.

Farrow and the rest of the family have barely heard from her since the meeting earlier this summer at the family home in Connecticut, the Post reported.

Allen and Farrow have been locked in a bitter and bizarre custody battle over the couple's three children, two of whom they adopted, since Farrow learned of Allen's affair with Korean-born Soon-Yi.

Miss Previn, who Allen's publicist says is 21 but Farrow's spokesman says could be as young as 18, is Farrow's adopted daughter with her previous husband, conductor Andre Previn. Farrow has a total of 11 adopted and biological children.

The Post said it learned of the family meeting from another of Farrow's adopted daughters, Lark Previn, 19.

Farrow dispatched Lark Previn to the newspaper, which had published a picture of Miss Previn at an unnamed New Jersey college where she is attending summer classes, to learn where Soon-Yi is, the newspaper said.

Lark was quoted by the newspaper as saying her sister's affair with Allen was an "infatuation." She also stressed that Farrow was not an "unfit" mother as Allen

has charged, and disputed claims that the filmmaker's affair with Miss Previn began after his relationship with Farrow had disintegrated.

The Daily News quoted Farrow lawyer Allen Dershowitz as saying that Allen denied two of the children who are the subject of the dispute after he began the affair with Miss Previn.

Allen and Farrow's private war exploded into public view last week when Allen sued for custody of their three children. On Monday, the Oscar-winning director publicly admitted having an affair with Miss Previn and professed his love for her.

Since the dispute erupted, Farrow has alleged Allen abused the couple's seven-year-old adopted daughter, Dylan, one of the children whose custody is in dispute.

Allen held a news conference where he vehemently denied the charge, calling it "outrageous," and suggesting it was part of Farrow's strategy against his custody suit.

The Connecticut state police are investigating possible abuse charges and the New York Times has reported that New York City Police are conducting a similar investigation.

Farrow spokesman John Springer said Farrow learned of the affair when she stopped by Allen's apartment — the couple maintained separate residences — on an errand and found nude photographs of Miss Previn on Allen's mantelpiece.

"From what I was told, they are nude — pornographic — beyond nude pictures. They were pornographic," said Mr. Springer, who stressed that he had not

seen the pictures himself.

As the controversy swirled Wednesday, Allen's latest film, *Husbands and Wives*, was shown for the first time in New York to an audience stunned by the parallels of the film's plot and the filmmaker's own personal problems.

Allen plays Gabe Roth, a college professor on the verge of breaking up with his wife, Judy, played by Farrow. Allen's character becomes involved with a 20-year-old college student.

Meanwhile, Soon-Yi told friends the actress beat her and hit her with a chair after learning she was involved with Allen, a newspaper reported Friday.

She told the friends the outbursts began in January when Miss Farrow discovered the nude pictures in Allen's apartment, New York Newsday said.

Miss Previn told friends she fled her mother's apartment after a few days because Farrow had punched her, hit her with a chair, ripped her clothing and repeatedly yelled at her in the middle of the night, Newsday said.

John Springer said he was unaware of any outbursts.

He said Farrow talked with her daughter Wednesday, and the actress said Miss Previn could return home.

Mia and Soon-Yi had a long conversation Wednesday night, Mr. Springer said. "They said they loved each other, and Mia told Soon-Yi she would always be her daughter. She told her that if at any point she felt that she wanted to come home, she would be welcomed with love."

Allen's acknowledged love affair with the daughter of his ex-lover is a kind of emotional incest that can tear a family apart and leave lasting scars, experts say.

"How can you be a father and lover?" said Sue Meier, director of the abuse hotline for Childhelp USA in Los Angeles.

"It doesn't make sense. If he's taken on the role of father or stepfather then he's looked upon as a parent. This is a betrayal."

Connecticut police have confirmed that Allen is being investigated, apparently over allegations that he abused his seven-year-old adopted daughter, Dylan, Allen denied molesting the girl.

Allen's sister, Letty Aronson, came to his defence Thursday, saying Allen and Miss Previn never had a father-daughter relationship.

"I would venture to say that Soon-Yi never thought of Woody that way," Ms. Aronson said. "The girl had a father."

But Daisy Previn, 17, said she and her 10 brothers and sisters regarded Allen as a father during his 12-year relationship with Miss Farrow.

"I loved him as a father," she said Thursday. "We all thought of him as a father for years."